

into the hills on either side. Their bared ends, of course, were once prolonged upward: no fissure or fault could have exposed them; the lost parts can only have been removed by some agent which acted, not vertically like a fracture, but in a general sense horizontally, such as rains, rivers, frosts, ice, and the sea. In short, the glen at Fort-Augustus must be due mainly to denudation; the direction of the erosion being determined originally by the feature which the long line of crack made at the surface. And if this be the case at one part of the glen, where both its bottom and sides can be examined, the same structure can hardly fail to characterise the rest of the valley where it is filled by the lakes. The same evidence of extensive denudation, indeed, can be followed along the sides of the lakes. There cannot be any doubt that since the dislocation began, the hollow of the Great Glen has been enormously denuded. The material worn off its sides would find its way to the bottom, and first fill up the lakes, had these existed. As the lakes are so deep, and still so little encroached upon by alluvium along their margins, they are certainly later than the formation of this long valley. It seems to me that this conclusion must be conceded even by those who most strenuously oppose the erosive power of ice.

If then the deep cavities of the Great Glen<sup>1</sup> are of later date than the scooping out of the valley itself, to what source must their origin be traced? There seem to be only two possible answers to this problem; the lochs must either be due to special fractures or subsidences after the formation of the valley in which they lie, or they have been

<sup>1</sup> The deepest sounding in Loch Ness gives a depth of 129 fathoms opposite the Falls of Foyers; in Loch Oich, 23 fathoms; in Loch Lochy, a little below Letterfinlay, 76 fathoms.