

The present outflow of the lake through the deep narrow gorge of the Pass of Brander is comparatively speaking recent. It has been opened across the lofty ridge that stretches from King's House through Ben Cruachan to the Sound of Jura. I regard it as another example of a watershed cut through by streams which flow in opposite directions, aided doubtless both by the sea and by the stream of ice that came down from the opposite mountains and pressed through every available outlet to the ocean. But no one can ascend from the Sound of Jura to Kilmartin, and thence up the terraced valley to Loch Awe, without being convinced that this must have been the old outlet of the great valley of that loch. The drainage from the cluster of long deep glens at the head of the lake descended into the main valley, and went out to sea in the Sound of Jura. The excavation of the long lake-basin, and the cutting through of the watershed by the Pass of Brander, are late events, both probably dating from the Glacial period, while the origin of the main valley of Loch Awe carries us back infinitely far into the past. It is owing to this erosion of the valley and to the cutting through of the Brander Pass, that the water now flows into Loch Etive instead of the Sound of Jura or Loch Gilp. The geologist who ascends the valley from Kilmartin may well marvel when, standing at last on an ice-worn barrier of schist, he sees stretched out for miles before him the wooded shores of Loch Awe. He can there observe that the lake is dammed back by hard rock, that this rocky barrier has been smoothed, polished, and striated, and that the parallelism of the striation with the length of the valley and of the lake proves that a mass of ice once filled up the present basin of the lake, ascended over the rocky barrier, and passed down the valley towards Kilmartin. All along the sides of the loch,