

cubic feet or more, and weighing 40 tons or upwards, may be found standing alone, like the large schist boulder locally known as 'Samson's putting-stane,' which lies apparently in dangerous instability on Bochastle Hill west from Callander on the road to the Trossachs. The erratic blocks become more interesting in proportion as they recede from their parent mountains. I shall therefore reserve a fuller description of them for the account of the Midland Valley.

It is no part of my design in this volume to enter into the history of the Ice Age, except in so far as the scenery of the country has been influenced by the geological changes which took place during that time. I therefore pass over the records of the fluctuations in the march of the different currents of the ice-sheet, and the evidence for periods of intermittent cold and warmth when, amid great oscillations of climate, the plants and animals of the country varied from cycle to cycle, northern forms at one time coming southward with the augmentation of the snow-fields and glaciers, and southern species at another time migrating northwards as the snow and ice retreated.

The last stages of the Ice Age have left their mark upon the Highlands in a form hardly less fitted to impress the imagination than that of the great ice-sheets. As the vast covering of ice retreated, it came at last to be restricted to the valleys descending from the higher groups of hills, where it took the shape of local glaciers. Each mass of high ground had its system of glaciers, creeping down the glens, and bearing on their surfaces the heaps of earth and stones they received from the slopes on either side. It is this detritus which remains as so enduring and striking a memorial of the latest phase of the Ice Age in Scotland.

If the reader visits a glen where this kind of evidence is conspicuous, he will find a series of mounds, cumbered