

with such a striking series of mounds as roughens the dark plain between the mouth of the valley and the sea. The old glacier of Strath Brora must have spread out over the flat as soon as it escaped from its confinement between the walls of the glen, and the rubbish which it threw down gathered into long rampart-like mounds, that still sweep round in a rude crescent form, from the foot of the hills towards the sea. Within the outer ridges, which are most continuous, there is a confused grouping of mounds, which come together so as to enclose little pools of water or basins of peat that mark where similar pools originally lay. Above the mouth of the valley, the same detritus extends towards the loch—a quiet sheet of water lying under the shadow of dark crags, and held back still by the moraine rubbish of the glacier which once occupied its place. It is the relation of the moraine mounds to the sea-level, however, which gives them their greatest interest. They can be traced seawards in straggling hummocks and ridges, until, about a mile south of the village of Brora, one of the mounds is seen to overhang the beach, and a section of it, along with the gravelly beds on which it rests, has been laid bare by the waves. The glacier, in all likelihood, descended to the sea-level when these mounds were formed—an inference borne out by the loose materials on which they rest, and by the gravelly, water-worn character of the detritus of which the mounds are made up. So severe did the climate of Scotland still continue, that the valley-glaciers in eastern Sutherland continued to come down to the shore, until the land had risen to within forty or fifty feet of its present level.

Not less impressive is the evidence on the northern side of the same county. Loch Eribol, the most striking of the remoter fjords of Sutherland, penetrates inland to the roots