

hill, the summit of which is about 1300 feet above the sea. The mounds are some 300 feet above the level of high-water mark (Fig. 61).

The mountain groups of Mull, Rum, and Skye, likewise had snowfields large enough to feed glaciers that crept down the glens towards the sea. The mass of ice that filled the great cauldron-like recess in which Loch Coruisk lies, pressed outwards through the pass into Loch Scavaig, and no doubt broke up there into little icebergs that floated away out into the Atlantic. Even the solitary little group of conical hills forming the island of Hoy in the Orkneys had its glaciers, one which has left a semicircular moraine half-way down a shady corry looking far over the northern sea.

To one further and much less obtrusive relic of the Ice Age in Highland scenery I would here refer—the Arctic vegetation that still clothes the sides and summits of the Highland mountains. There can be no doubt that these northern plants must have come by land into this country. Their arrival dates back to the time when the floor of the North Sea was dry land, and when a rigorous climate, extending over Europe and the higher latitudes of the northern hemisphere, drove southward the plants and animals of more temperate character, and allowed the northern species to replace them. But when at length the wide wintry mantle, that had so long enveloped the mountains and valleys of the Highlands, crept from the sea slowly up the glens; when each glacier shrank step by step backwards into the snowfields of the uplands, and when finally the snowfields themselves melted away, the gradual amelioration of climate told powerfully on the plants and animals of the country. The more alpine or Arctic vegetation was by degrees expelled from the warmer