

It gives us a lively idea of the continued severity of the climate to reflect that so limited a group of hills, the summits of which are little more than 1800 or 2000 feet above the sea, should yet have nourished such massive glaciers that carried huge blocks of granite away north, south, east, and west, and dropped them over the plains.

As an example of extreme glaciation, I may refer to the valley of Loch Doon. A rugged cauldron-like amphitheatre, some four or five miles wide, lies there enclosed between the Kells range on the east, and the Merrick on the west. The bottom of this extraordinary hollow is roughened with prominences which, were they not dwarfed by the lofty summits around them, would be looked on as noteworthy hills. It is dark with peat, shaggy with heather, and dotted with numerous tarns and lochs. Its collected drainage finds an exit by a narrow valley at the northern end, and it is there that Loch Doon lies. The lake itself, with its head fairly within the amphitheatre, stretches northward for six miles, with an average breadth of rather less than half a mile.

Down this valley there must have been a vast pressure of ice that filled the wide cauldron up to the brim of its surrounding mountains, and here, consequently, most marked evidence of glacial erosion occurs. The ledges of rock that project into the water are as smooth and polished as a well-worn pavement, and are covered with long ruts and grooves that run parallel with the direction of the valley. Near the head of the loch some of these projections, consisting of hard, dark greywacke, traversed with granite veins, have been shorn as smooth as if a committee of geologists had determined to lay open to the best advantage a complete section of the junction of the two rocks. The rocky islets, similarly polished and striated, show the smooth convex flowing outlines so characteristic of *roches moutonnées*. One of