

tiny shell which had never before been known to live around the coasts of Britain. The result of his explorations, and of those subsequently carried on by Forbes, Macandrew, Jeffreys and others, went to show that the assemblage of shells in the clay had a strongly northern character, that among them were some which are now rare in British seas, though common in the far north, and that a few no longer live around our shores, but are confined to the boreal and arctic regions. The value of these researches was not thoroughly perceived at the time, but they were eventually found to lend a powerful support to the attempts of geologists to account for some of the superficial phenomena of the country by the agency of ice.

The flat platform that extends along the Clyde below Glasgow, and spreads out to a breadth of between three and four miles at Paisley, has been cut out of the brick-clays in which these Arctic shells occur. A similar terrace, but at a higher level, forms a conspicuous feature at Falkirk. To these terraces further allusion will be made in the sequel. But the clays are chiefly to be found on the beach. The land has been elevated since they were formed, and they have been partly carried up above the sea, but those formed in deeper water are still below the line of high-water mark.

Among the superficial formations which, overlying the till, and belonging to the closing ages of the Glacial period, have notably influenced the scenery of the Midland Valley, must be placed those long rampart-like ridges of gravel and sand known as *kames* in Scotland, *eskers* in Ireland, and *ösar* in Scandinavia (Fig. 85). Notwithstanding all that has been said and written about them, no thoroughly satisfactory explanation of them has yet been given. They look not unlike the earthen mounds of antique fortifications, only that they are loftier and longer than any such fortifica-