

westward across the main water-parting of the country and have been dropped on the western side.⁴

In North America also abundant evidence is afforded of a northern ice-sheet which overrode Canada and the Eastern States southward to about the 39th parallel of latitude in the valley of the Missouri. Some details regarding the area which it covered and the traces it has left of its presence are given at p. 1723.

Beyond the limits of the northern ice-sheet, the European continent nourished snow-fields and glaciers wherever the ground was high enough and the snowfall heavy enough to furnish them. As already mentioned, the precipitation of moisture during the Ice Age, as at present, was greatest toward the west, and consequently in the western tracts the independent snow-fields and glaciers were most numerous and extensive. Even at the present time, the glaciers of the western part of the Alpine chain are larger than those further east. At the time of the northern ice-sheet a similar local difference existed. The present snow-fields and glaciers of these mountains, large though they are, form no more than the mere shrunken remnants of the great mantle of snow and ice which then overspread Switzerland. In the Bernese Oberland, for example, the valleys were filled to the brim with ice, which, moving northward, crossed the great plain, and actually overrode a part of the Jura Mountains; for huge fragments of granite and other rocks from the central chain of the Alps are found high on the slopes of that range of heights. The Rhone glacier swept westward across all the intervening ridges and valleys, and left its moraine-heaps in the valley of the Rhone where Lyons now stands.

⁴ Peach and Horne, *Brit. Assoc.* 1892, p. 720.