

the proofs that here and there among the loftier or broader snow-fields of the time they accumulated in front of lateral valleys, the drainage of which was in consequence ponded back and made to flow out in an opposite direction by the *col* at the head (p. 713). In these natural reservoirs, the level at which the water stood for a time was marked by a horizontal ledge or platform, due partly to erosion of the hillside, but chiefly to the arrest of the descending débris when it entered the water. The famous "Parallel Roads of Glen Roy" are the most familiar examples. In some instances, as at Achnasheen in Ross-shire, the detritus of the glacial streams was arrested and spread out in broad platforms across the valleys.

The gradual retreat of the glaciers toward their parent snow-fields is admirably revealed by their moraines, perched blocks, and *roches moutonnées*. The crescent-shaped moraine-mounds that lie one behind another may be followed up a glen, until they finally die out about the head, near what must have been the edge of the snow-field. The highest mounds, being the last to be thrown down, are often singularly fresh. They frequently inclose pools of water, which have not yet been filled up with detritus or vegetation, or flat peaty bottoms where the process of filling up has been completed. Huge blocks borne from the crags above them are strewn over these heaps, and similar erratics perched on ice-worn knolls on the sides of the valleys mark some of the former levels of the ice. The Scottish Highlands, the southern uplands of Scotland, the hills of the Lake district and of North Wales present admirable examples of all these features.

On the continent of Europe also similar evidence remains of the gradual retreat of the ice. In many tracts of high