

and reject. But the result of this tour was to convince him that the phenomena were even more stupendous than Charpentier had asserted. In spite of the claims of his palæontological and zoological undertakings, Agassiz was so fascinated by the ice-problem of the Alps that he must needs pursue the subject with all the enthusiasm and industry of his character. He took the earliest opportunity of again investigating the evidence furnished by the slopes of the Jura mountains, and became so firmly convinced of the truth and wide importance of the conclusions at which he had arrived that he determined to publish these to the world. Accordingly in the summer of the following year (1837), when only thirty-three years of age, he took the opportunity, as President of the Helvetian Society of Natural Science, to give an address in which he struck, with the hand of a master, the keynote of all his future research in glaciation. Tracing the distribution of the erratic blocks above the present level of the glaciers, and far beyond their existing limits, he connected these transported masses with the polished and striated rock-surfaces which were known to extend even to the summits of the southern slopes of the Jura. He showed, from the nature of these smooth surfaces, that they could not have been worn into their characteristic forms by any current of water. The fine striæ, engraven on them as with a diamond-point, he proved to be precisely similar to those now being scratched on the rocky floors of the modern glaciers, and he inferred that the polished and striated rocks of the Jura, even though now many leagues from the nearest glacier, must have acquired their peculiar