

These and the subsequent researches and glacial monographs of the great Swiss naturalist started the study of ancient glaciation. At first his conclusions had been regarded as rank heresy by the older and more conservative geologists of the day. Von Buch "could hardly contain his indignation, mingled with contempt, for what seemed to him the view of a youthful and inexperienced observer."<sup>1</sup> A. von Humboldt also threw cold water upon the ardour of his young friend. But by degrees the opposition waned, and Agassiz had the satisfaction of seeing his most doughty opponents come over one by one to his side. Nowhere were his triumphs more signal than in the British Isles. Buckland (1784-1856), who enjoyed the advantage of being shown the evidence in Switzerland by Agassiz himself, was the first convert of distinction. He signalled his change of opinion by publishing a paper to prove the former presence of glaciers in Scotland and the north of England, followed by another communication on "the glacio-diluvial phenomena in Snowdonia and the adjacent parts of North Wales."<sup>2</sup> Lyell about the same time was won over by Buckland, and likewise hastened to announce his acceptance of the new views by publishing a paper on the former existence of glaciers in Forfarshire.<sup>3</sup> A few years later James David Forbes (1808-1868) gave an account of glaciers that nestled

<sup>1</sup> *Louis Agassiz, his Life and Correspondence*, by E. Cary Agassiz, vol. i. p. 264.

<sup>2</sup> *Proc. Geol. Soc.* vol. iii. (1841) pp. 332, 345, 579.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Geol. Soc.* vol. iii. (1841) p. 337.