

Blocks into which the country is divided. The evidence bearing on the glaciation of these areas clearly indicates that these depressions acted as outlets for a larger volume of ice than could have been obtained from the catchment basin of the valley containing a particular rock-basin. In the Northern Block, where during the maximum glaciation the ice-shed lay to the east of the existing watershed, these conditions must have had a marked influence on the direction and volume of the ice-flow. In the western part of the counties of Sutherland and Ross, Lochs More, Stack, Veyatie, Lurgan, Loch na Sheallag, and Loch Fada may be quoted as examples of lakes that originated under these conditions. Loch Maree is similarly situated, and some of the sea-lochs in that region are true fjord basins. In North Sutherland, where deep through valleys draining northward from the central plateau have been established, similar rock-basins are to be found, as, for instance, Loch Hope, Loch an Dithreibh, Loch Laoghal, Loch Naver, and Loch Coir' an Fheàrna.

It is a remarkable fact that rock-basins are extremely rare in the Monadhliath and Cairngorm Mountains, and the Eastern Grampians, where there are extensive areas of undissected plateau. In these regions the valleys are open and comparatively shallow; they have an almost uninterrupted slope, and they lead up to lofty ground. A similar contrast is observable in the Southern Uplands; for in the Moorfoot and Lammermuir Hills in the eastern part of that tableland, lakes occupying rock-basins have not been recorded, while far to the west among the high grounds of Galloway they are prominently developed. It will be shown in the sequel that the Galloway rock-basins are dependent upon the remarkable topographical features of that region which resulted in extreme differential erosion during both periods of glaciation.

The distribution of many of the Scottish rock-basins further shows that individual lakes and even groups of lakes are ponded by rocky barriers that form prominent features in the geological structure of the country. A remarkable series illustrating these characteristics, and comprising, among others, Loch Katrine, Loch Ard, Loch Chon, Loch Lubnaig, Loch Voil, and Loch Earn, and the upper part of Loch Lomond, occurs on the border of the Eastern Highlands in Perthshire.¹ In that region the rocky barrier consists chiefly of metamorphic schistose grits (the Ben Ledi and Leny grits) trending in an east-north-east and west-south-west direction, which are followed inland by weaker strata composed of phyllites and mica-schists. Loch Katrine may be taken as the most striking example of the group, as it displays in a remarkable manner certain features which, in our opinion, point to differential erosion by ice. In the geological notes

¹ See Appendix.