

one natural phenomenon which is certainly very exceptional, and at the same time very effective.

In the East Island most of the valleys are occupied by pale-gray glistening masses, from a few hundred yards to a mile or two in width, which look at a distance much like glaciers descending apparently from the adjacent ridges, and gradually increasing in volume, fed by tributary streams, until they reach the sea. Examined a little more closely, these are found to be vast accumulations of blocks of quartzite, irregular in form, but having a tendency to a rude diamond shape, from two to eight or ten or twenty feet long, and perhaps half as much in width, and of a thickness corresponding with that of the quartzite bands in the ridges above. The blocks are angular, like the fragments in a breccia, and they rest irregularly one upon the other, supported in all positions by the angles and edges of those beneath.

They are not weathered to any extent, though the edges and points are in most cases slightly rounded; and the surface, also perceptibly worn, but only by the action of the atmosphere, is smooth and polished; and a very thin, extremely hard, white lichen which spreads over nearly the whole of them gives the effect of their being covered with a thin layer of ice.

Far down below, under the stones, one can hear the stream of water gurgling which occupies the axis of the valley; and here and there, where a space between the blocks is unusually large and clear, a quivering reflection is sent back from a stray sunbeam.

At the mouth of the valley the section of the "stone river" exposed by the sea is like that of a stone drain on a huge scale, the stream running in a channel arched over by loose stone blocks, or finding its way through the spaces among them. There is scarcely any higher vegetation on the "stone run;" the surface of every block is slippery and clean, except where here and there a little peaty soil has lodged in a cranny, and