

The sandy plain stretches back from the bay as a dreary waste to another small curved beach at the head of another inlet of the sea. Behind this inlet is an irregular rocky mountain mass forming the end of the island, on which are two large glaciers very steeply inclined, and one of them terminating in a sheer ice-fall. At its back this mountain mass is bounded by precipices with their bases washed by the sea.

The plain is traversed by several streams of glacier water coming from the southern glaciers. These streams are constantly changing their course, as the beach and plain are washed about by the surf in heavy weather. At the time of our visit the main stream stretched across the entire width of the plain and entered the sea at the extreme western verge of the beach. We had therefore to ford it.

The stream was about 20 yards across, and knee-deep. It was intensely cold, and pained my legs worse than any glacier water I have ever waded in. The water of the stream was brown, opaque, and muddy, charged with the grindings of the glaciers. Running into the sea it formed a conspicuous brown tract, sharply defined from the blue-green water of the sea, and extending almost to the mouth of the bay.

The sandy plain seemed entirely of glacial origin; it was in places covered with glacial mud, and was yielding, and heavy to walk upon.

Mr. Buchanan observed that the isolated rocks which had been rolled down upon this plain from the heights above were cut by the natural sand-blast into forms resembling trees on a coast exposed to trade winds. The effect of every prevalent wind was shown by the facets cut by the blown sand upon the surfaces of the rocks, the largest facet in each case being that turned towards the west.\*

The plain was strewn with bones of the Sea-Elephant and Sea-Leopard, those of the former being most abundant. There were remains of thousands of skeletons, and I gathered a good many tusks of old males. The bones lay in curved lines, looking like tide lines, on either side of the plain above the beaches, marking the rookeries of old times and tracks of slaughter of the sealers. Some bones occurred far up on the plain, the Elephants having in times of security made their lairs far from the water's edge. A few whale's vertebræ were also seen lying about.

On the opposite side of the plain from that bounded by the glacier is a stretch of low bare rock, with a peculiar smooth and rounded but irregular surface. This rock surface appears from a distance as if glaciated, but on closer examination it is seen to

\* J. Y. Buchanan, M.A., Report, "Proc. R. Soc." No. 170, 1876, p. 622.