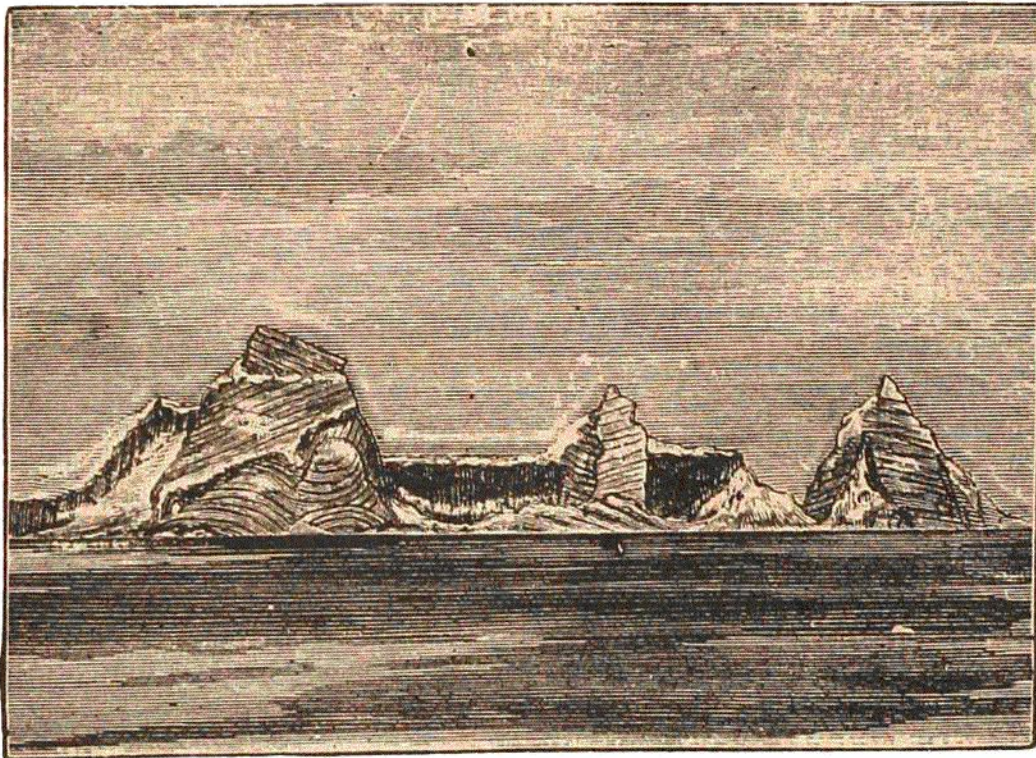


show very distinct ripple marks and lines of flow, and the rock-mass is evidently a comparatively recent lava flow from a small broken-down crater which stands on the shore close by.

The remains of the crater are now in the form of three fantastic irregularly conical masses, composed of very numerous thin layers of scoriæ, conspicuous because of their varying and strongly contrasted colours and very irregular bedding. The lava flow is seen in section in the low cliffs forming the coast-line of the harbour.

The present condition of Heard Island is evidently that which obtained in Kerguelen's Land formerly. Glaciers once covered



BROKEN-DOWN CRATER, WHISKY BAY, WITH SNOW UPON IT.

Kerguelen's Land almost entirely, and dipped down into the sea. It is, however, an extraordinary fact that Heard Island, only 300 miles south of Kerguelen's Land, should thus still be in a glacial epoch, whilst in Kerguelen's Land, a very much larger tract, the glaciers should have shrunk back into the interior, and have left so much of the land surface entirely free of ice, the ice epoch being there already a thing of the past.

The great height of Big Ben, and consequent largeness of the area where snow constantly accumulates and cannot be melted, no doubt accounts to a considerable extent for the peculiar conditions in Heard Island. A similar rapid descent of the snow-line within a few degrees of latitude occurs in the Chilean