

precipitation of snow on the leading peaks of the region." So in Canada, and in the Ottawa district, a great reduction in the temperature followed the great elevation, and immense quantities of snow, ice and water followed and glaciers were formed all over the district—a vast mer-de-glace covered this portion of Canada, whose height above the ocean level of that period was considerable. These glaciers, like modern ones, were characterized by many interesting particulars which a study of the latter can afford. The number, direction, movements, thickness, erosive or denuding power and the constituent parts of a glacier, or a system of glaciers, are questions full of interest. It has been ascertained that over four hundred glaciers can be seen in the central portion of the Alps, from Mont Blanc to the Tyrol, some of which are only three miles in length, whilst others exceed twenty miles from head to foot or from the point of origin to the snout. There is abundant evidence to show that the number of glaciers which must have existed here about Ottawa is very considerable. Perhaps the greater number, were subordinate or small ones and may, at length, have been absorbed in and formed part of "a great glacier." The direction in which they moved depended of course on the nature of the district, its physical or orographical character. The general trend of the great mer-de-glace in Canada during this epoch has been ascertained to be approximately N. E. and S. W. With regard to the direction of some of the glaciers, the striations or grooves on the rocks about Ottawa show that in some cases they travelled almost due east and west, as may be seen along Park Avenue, on Nicholas street and in other parts of the city, at other times they appear at a considerable angle to this direction, bearing almost due north and south, as at Buckingham on the Lièvre River. Regarding their movements and the speed with which glaciers travel, we consult Agassiz and find that he obtained the following results in 1841 and 1842 on some of the Aar glaciers:—

I. FINSTER AAR—

	ANNUAL MOTION.
{ Stake near centre of glacier.....	269 feet.
" " ".....	160 "

II. LAUTER AAR—

{ Stake nearest centre of glacier.....	245 "
" " ".....	124 "