

Museum, exhibit no appearance of having suffered by the action of fire. Even the delicate papyri appear to have sustained more injury from the effects of moisture and exposure to the air, than from heat; for they contain matter soluble in naphtha, and are in fact peat in which bituminization has commenced.\* In Pompeii, the sand and stones are loose and unconsolidated; but in Herculaneum, the houses and works of art are imbedded in solid tuff, which must have originated either from a torrent of mud, or from ashes moistened by water. Hence statues are found unchanged, although surrounded by hard tuff, bearing the impressions of the minutest lines. The beams of the houses have undergone but little alteration, except that they are invested with a black crust. Linen and fishing-nets, loaves of bread with the impress of the baker's name; even fruits, as walnuts, almonds, and chestnuts, are still distinctly recognisable. The remarkable preservation, for nearly 2000 years, of whole cities, with their houses, furniture, and even the most perishable substances, beneath beds of volcanic rocks, may be compared to those geological changes, by which the forests of an earlier world, and the remains of the colossal dragon-forms which inhabited the ancient land and waters, have been perpetuated.

25. PROFESSOR SILLIMAN ON GEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE.—Although in this stage of our inquiry,

\* Dr. Mac Culloch.