

no farther exemplification of the nature of geological evidence is, I trust, necessary, yet I cannot deny myself the pleasure of pointing out to you the admirable manner in which Professor Silliman has illustrated the principles of geological induction, by a reference to the discovery of the buried Roman cities.

“When in 1738,” he observes, “the workmen, in excavating a well, struck upon the theatre of Herculaneum, which had been buried for seventeen centuries beneath the lava of Vesuvius; when subsequently (1750) Pompeii was disencumbered of its volcanic ashes, and thus two ancient cities were brought to light; had history been as silent respecting their existence, as it was of their destruction, would not all observers say, and have not all actually said—Here are the works of man, his temples, his houses, furniture, and personal ornaments; his very wine and food; his dungeons, with the skeletons of the prisoners chained in their awful solitudes, and here and there a victim overtaken by the fiery storm? Because the soil had formed, and grass and trees had overgrown, and successive generations of men had erected their abodes over the entombed cities, and because these were covered by lava and cinders,—still does any one hesitate to admit that they were once real cities; that they stood upon what was then the surface of the country; that their streets once rang with the noise of business; their halls and theatres with the voice of