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CHAPTER XIV.

Dr. Channing.—Agitation in Rhode Island.—Armed Convention.—Sail through Amboy Straits.—Journey to Philadelphia and Baltimore.—Harper's Ferry.—Passage over the Alleghanies by National Road.—Parallel Ridges.—Absence of Drift.—Structure and Origin of Appalachians.—Theory of Subsidence and Contraction of Subterranean Fluid.—Kentucky Farmers.—Emigrants.—Cumberland Coal Field.—Clay with Stigmaria.—Marine Shells in Coal Measures near Frostburg.—Wide Geographical Distribution of Fossil Coal Plants.

April 17, 1842.—DURING my stay at Boston, I was fortunate enough to hear Dr. Channing preach one of the last sermons he delivered from the pulpit. His declining health had prevented him from doing regular duty of late years; but there seemed no reason to anticipate that he would so soon be taken away from a community over which he exerted a great and salutary influence. His sermon was less impressive than I had expected, and fell short of the high conception I had formed of him from his