

Galeville. We passed through the gay town of Saratoga Springs, where the mineral waters burst out from "the Lower Silurian," or most ancient fossiliferous rocks. We saw many picturesque spots, especially the waterfall called Baaten Kill, near Galeville, but no grand or striking scenery. Among the plants in blossom, we gathered *Anemone nemorosa*, *Trientalis americana* (less beautiful than our British *Trientalis europæa*), *Cypripedium pubescens*, *Geranium sylvaticum*, three species of violet (all without scent), *Houstonia cærulea*, *Gnaphalium perenne*, and in several copses, the beautiful *Polygala pauciflora*, which might be truly said—

"To purple all the ground with vernal flowers."

Whether, in this part of the United States, there are any fossiliferous rocks older than the Lower Silurian, was the geological point at issue; and the question resembled one on which an animated controversy had lately been carried on in Great Britain, in regard to the relative ages of the "Cambrian" and "Silurian" groups. As those strata, called Cambrian, which contained organic remains, were found to be nothing more than highly disturbed and semi-crystalline Silurian rocks, so I believe the formations called Taconic in the United States, to have claim to no higher antiquity, and to be simply Silurian strata much altered, and often quite metamorphic.