

and, on suffering it to cool under circumstances similar to those in which the rock has been placed, it resumes its rock-like aspect. Marks of heat are all about these granites and their trappean associates. Wherever they have come in contact with rocks of sedimentary origin, the latter are scorched and reddened. In many cases they have been actually fused. A sandstone has been converted into quartz; a shale into a micaceous, semi-crystalline bed; a limestone into statuary marble; and all the vestiges of living forms which these strata inclosed have been withered up and dissipated by the touch of fire.

These underlying crystalline masses are not confined to the deep-seated regions of the earth's crust. We find them thrusting their heads up through the ruptured strata which repose upon their flanks. Higher even than the highest summits formed by the stratified rocks, these foundation masses rear their bold granite heads. From these cold, serene altitudes they look down with dignified complacence upon the fury of the tempest which brings consternation to the landscape below, but fails to ascend to those frigid, breathless summits which every living thing has equally failed to scale.

Some of these venerable domes were reared before ever a particle of sediment had been produced, or even the world-embracing sea had descended from the regions of space around the earth. From their high stations they have watched the procession of all subsequent events; and, while race after race has appeared and disappeared, they have stood calm spectators, unchanged by the myriad vicissitudes of eternity. Others were still the level floor of the ocean when the oldest sediments began to accumulate upon them. In some subsequent age a mighty force has raised them with their load of sediments above the level of the sea. The tempests of succeeding ages have partially