

Thus fire and water, in their ever-varying operations, have been the principal agencies by which Nature has wrought out the great physical results upon which we gaze with a familiarity which causes us to forget that these safe and solid foundations on which we build cities, and to which we gain a title with hard-earned gold, are but the ruins of pre-existing hills, and valleys, and plains, in which are entombed the long-forgotten relics of the brute nations which preceded us in the possession of the earth.