

CHAPTER XII.

ONWARD THROUGH THE AGES.

THE evening shades of one of eternity's æons are gathering around us. The darkness upon which we are entering is the gloom of a tempest and the night of death to the teeming populations of the globe. A throe of Nature heaves still higher the germinal ridges of the continent, robs the ocean of another strip of his domain, and seals up the record of the life of the Lower Silurian.

The elevation which marked the close of this great interval of terrestrial history brought to light the basin of Lake Superior, Northern Wisconsin, and Minnesota, the northern and eastern portions of New York, and considerable portions of New England. The line of sea-coast passed westward through Central New York, along the bed of the future Lake Ontario, thence northwestward to Georgian Bay, following the trend of the future Lake Huron, sweeping round by the Sault Ste. Marie, and arching downward again through Wisconsin along a line a few miles west of the present Lake Michigan. Thence it swept westward and northwestward in the direction of Lake Winnipeg and the Arctic Sea. All to the south of this line was yet the empire of the Atlantic. On those vast submarine plains the Pacific joined hands with the Atlantic, and the two sang dirges over the land that was to become the scene of fraternal conflict.

It might weary the casual reader of geological history to recite the details of the periods which follow. What has been narrated of the birth and death of populations