

of the European Lectonia was an event which reaches down within the grasp of human tradition, the drainage of the American Lectonia was an event shrouded in the obscurities of the pre-Adamic ages. Thus again we discover that the "New World" is in reality the oldest.

This broad expanse of Tertiary waters stretched across the western part of Dakotah and Nebraska. At the same time, the Mexican Gulf, though outlined somewhat after the modern fashion, was left a hundred miles more extended than at present on the west and north, and reached its long arm up the valley of the Mississippi to the mouth of the Ohio, beckoning to the cooler waters of the North to come and lave its tropic shores. This arm was the southern representative of the Gulf of the St. Lawrence. The peninsula of Florida was a coral reef. A broad belt of the Atlantic States to New York was yet a sea-bottom, and the Pacific yet held possession of the lowland zone of the western slope. Now the Missouri River came into existence, born of the great central sea. Still the Niagara River thundered away in an ancient excavation, which, like the work of the men of Nineveh, was destined to be buried beneath the rubbish of coming ages, and lie a long time unremembered. Now the eastern ranges of the Rocky Mountains were first lifted above the deep. During subsequent ages they underwent further upheavals, while the waters of the Gulf and the great oceans were rolled back to their present positions.

The epoch which followed the last great upheaval, and witnessed the events transpiring on the shores of the American Mediterranean, marked the dawn of the present order of things. All subsequent time has hence been styled Cenozoic. The populations which swarmed upon the earth during each preceding epoch disappeared in turn, and their places were occupied by forms generally more