

storm, or flood. But its lowering brow shows the deep scars of many a fierce conflict. The attacks have evidently proceeded from the north. On this side the perpendicular walls are smoothed and scored in precisely the same manner as the dome-shaped mass to which I have just alluded. The southern side retains, like the other mass, many of the angularities produced by the original fractures of the formation. Similar features are things of every-day observation, but people never suspect what mighty and what extraordinary agencies have been employed in producing them. All our low rocky hills and bluffs are similarly pared off upon their summits and northern exposures, while their southern aspects are more rugged. The great glacier has passed over them, striking them from the north, and grinding down their northerly projections and angularities. These phenomena have been especially studied and illustrated in New England by the lamented Dr. Hitchcock. On the western end of Lake Erie, at Stony Point, the surface of the Corniferous limestone lies two or three feet above the level of the water. Upon this have been deposited four or five feet of gravel and soil. On the immediate shore, the storm-waves have easily washed off the overlying beds, and left acres of the limestone completely exposed to view. What do we find to be the character of this original surface? Level and smooth as a floor—planed down by the energy of the omnipresent glacier—but marked, besides, by some deep furrows, which extend from edge to edge of the uncovered table in lines as straight and strictly parallel as if marked by the “gauge” of some Titanic stone-worker. One set of the furrows, in particular, arrests the attention, since the visitor can not fail to recognize their resemblance to the deep ruts produced by a loaded wagon moving over a soft and clayey surface (Fig. 81).