

are made to illuminate the dark and mysterious chambers of the fossil realm.

Reasoning thus, we are forced to the conviction that many of the ancient lakelets have become completely filled. Others are only half filled. Others have had the work completed even "within the memory of the oldest inhabitant." Who is not acquainted with some grassy pond which his father had known as a clear lakelet? What man is unable to point out some swale that in boyhood he had known as a grassy pond? or some meadow that he has traversed as an old-time swale? The work is not ended when the lakelet is filled. The surrounding eminences still continue to afford lime-yielding water, which saturates the muck and deposits its lime; while vegetation still pays its annual tribute to the accumulating stores, till the solid material becomes sufficient to exclude the excess of water. The ancient lakelet is at length a finished meadow. Man now steps in and appropriates the annual crop as coolly and unthinkingly, and perhaps as thanklessly, as if kind Nature had not expended a thousand years and infinite pains in fitting it up for his uses.

The epoch of the resurgence of the continent has been styled the Champlain Epoch of the Post-Tertiary Age. During this epoch existed the mastodon and mammoth, whose ponderous bones and teeth have overstrewn the entire area of our country. Unlike the teeth sown by Cadmus, those of these giant quadrupeds produced no crop, and we are not early enough in our visit to this planet to be gratified by the exhibition of living mastodons and hairy elephants.

It was probably also in the earliest part of the Champlain Epoch, or even before the full termination of the Glacial Epoch, that man appeared upon the earth. Judging solely from geological data, his appearance in America