

the region was essentially the same as now. If, in an interval of twenty or even of ten thousand years, little perceptible change has taken place in the populations of the globe, how vast a period must have elapsed during the progress of organic mutations which have twenty times resulted in the almost complete extinction of existing forms, and their replacement by beings of other types!

I said that the level of Lake Erie was once at the top of the heights of Lewiston, thirty-eight feet above its present altitude. This elevation submerged the flats to the east and west of the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers, and united Lake Erie with Lake Huron by a shallow expanse of water, which in some places possessed a breadth of fifty miles or more. Still farther, the level of Lakes Huron and Michigan was raised twenty-five feet above their present altitude, and a portion of the waters of the upper lakes found an outlet from Lake Michigan into the Des Plaines River, and thence into the Illinois and the Mississippi—if, indeed, a large portion of the prairie region of Illinois was not submerged by such an altitude of the lakes. At the same time, Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron stretched into the centre of the peninsula of Michigan.

This is not the highest altitude at which the waters of the lakes have stood, though the barriers which dammed them have long since disappeared. Along the southern borders of Lakes Erie and Ontario, the rocks arise from their more southern depressions, and face the lakes in bold escarpments three hundred and fifty feet above the respective levels of the waters. These bluffs have been the rocky shores of the lower lakes. For unnumbered ages the furious north wind has rolled mad waves against those adamantine walls, and battlement after battlement has tumbled down and been ground to powder by the tireless beating of the stormy surge. Between the foot of the mural