Such a fact, so striking and so circumstantially recorded, is only of the same nature as others less critically noted, which daily pass before our eyes in the upspringing of vegetable forms from the diluvial materials thrown out of wells, cellars, and other excavations.

The bones, the hair, and even the flesh of the extinct mammoth have been preserved in glacial deposits on the shores of Siberia. In so complete a state of preservation has the flesh been found, that dogs and bears greedily devoured it. If a material so perishable as muscular fibre could be preserved since an epoch which antedates authentic history, is it not more probable that the oily tissues of vegetable seeds could resist the tendency to decay under similar circumstances?

It must be confessed that the crucial observation is yet to be made. If vegetable germs exist in the drift, they can be discovered beforehand. I am not aware that any thorough search has ever been made for them; but, until they have been actually detected, it is probable that even the convincing facts cited above will fail to secure universal assent to the doctrine of the prolonged vitality of the seeds of pre-glacial vegetation. While, however, the case is far from demonstrated, it may fairly be submitted that the explanation of certain facts afforded by this theory is less presumptuous and improbable than the supposition of spontaneous generation, the fortuitous distribution of seeds by any modern agency, or any other explanation that has yet been offered.