

enterprise had been prosecuted to such an extent that it was regarded as just upon the eve of consummation and fruition. Now the geologist must be called in to puff the enterprise and sell the stock. Alas! he had the ungrateful duty of informing his employer that he had pierced *entirely through* the Corniferous limestone that had cheered him with its aromatic exhalations, and that he had entered the Niagara limestone, and would probably "strike fire" before he "struck oil." To palliate the disappointment, he had to add that the result could positively have been announced in the beginning, without the expenditure of a dollar in boring. This man expended six or eight thousand dollars in a most inexcusable and wasteful ignorance of the geological conditions, but yet endeavored to recover half of the moderate geological fee which he had paid to be informed of the hopelessness of his case.

The Corniferous limestone is extensively distributed throughout the West, and has afforded a wide field for the display of credulity that could not believe the truth, and avarice that could not spend enough in a bootless enterprise. It stretches in a broad belt from Columbus, in Ohio, northward to near the state line, where it bifurcates, one belt trending northwestward across Northern Indiana and into Southwestern Michigan, passing under Lake Michigan, and curving eastward, so as to reappear in the northern part of the state and form the headlands about Mackinac. The other belt trends northeastward, passing into Southeastern Michigan, beneath the western end of Lake Erie, and reappearing in the neighborhood of Woodstock and London, in Ontario, whence it deflects to the northwest, and passes under the middle of Lake Huron, reappearing in the headlands and islands of Michigan some distance southeast of Mackinac. Throughout nearly this whole extent it has been riddled by borers for oil, but to this day