

cropping of the impervious floor over which it had flowed? We need not attempt to imagine what would have resulted were the rocks left to rest in horizontal and continuous layers, but it is worth while to recognize the beneficence of that vast accumulation of loose materials which we call drift. It is, as it were, an enormous sponge, which drinks in the showers of heaven, and stores them away beyond the reach of defilement and putrefaction in the deep, cool reservoirs of the filtering sand-beds, so that it is almost impossible to penetrate the drift to a depth sufficient to secure an agreeable coolness without obtaining a plentiful supply of well-strained water. So common and so vital a comfort has been secured by the geologically-extraordinary deposition of such masses of loose materials over the surfaces of the naked rocks, and not less by their distribution in beds of sand and clay presenting every possible irregularity of thickness, extent, and disposition. (See Fig. 84.)

These and multitudes of other arrangements, collocations, structures, and products of a useful and beneficent character, are so many indications that during the long process of the world's fitting up—while yet the human era was contemplated as we contemplate the millennium—man, the nature of man, and the wants of man, constituted at least one of the objective points of cycles of geological preparation.

Finally, it is eminently worthy of remark that Nature has not only anticipated the coming of man, but has contemplated the exercise of human intelligence. How few of the benefits which Nature affords have been reached without study and thought! None will affirm that matter was endowed with all its capabilities of benefit to the human race without any design that those benefits should be secured and enjoyed. This is tantamount to saying that the provisions of Nature prophesy a reasoning mind. We