

des, have been planed down to the level of third-rate mountains, and the dust and rubbish scraped from their worn heads has been deposited in the troughs between the ridges, or strewn along the coast to form the foundations of the Atlantic States.

The city of Cincinnati stands upon the exposed core of the broadest and most westerly of these Appalachian folds. The rocky wrappings of this axis have been planed down from the summit till the Carboniferous, Devonian, Upper Silurian, and Lower Silurian strata have been successively reached, and these superincumbent layers tilt in all directions from the summit of the arch. The graves of encrinites and brachiopods, that had lain undisturbed for untold geological cycles, buried a thousand feet beneath ocean-slime and careering waves, and, at a later period, beneath the roots of Carboniferous tree-ferns and the mire of steaming jungles—graves of populous nations of the olden time—were uncovered and plowed from their locations, and crumbling skeletons were strewn over the area of three states. So the spirit of modern improvement sometimes lays its remorseless hand on the cemeteries of man, and sunlight falls again upon relics that had once been laid away with sacred care. What veneration fills the mind of the geologist as he walks over this waste of the Silurian burial-vaults. The Ohio has plowed its way through the buried city, and a city of the living has been reared upon the bones of the dead. The native ramparts which wall in the Queen City upon every side are but the broken tiers of vaults in this ancient cemetery. The area of this desecration extends to Madison and Richmond in Indiana, and to Danville and Richmond in Kentucky. Throughout this entire extent of country the once superincumbent formations have been swept away, and the material wrought into the structure of formations of later date.