

know that an ancient river-bed stretches from Lake Michigan down through the valley of the Illinois. The subterranean explorations of the well-borer's auger have disclosed multitudes of ancient gorges which are now filled up with drift. If such tremendous gorges were ever cut, they were filled up and obliterated by the great glacier. And may not this reparation of the surface have been one of the beneficent operations of the glacier? We are told no glacial action is detected west of the Rocky Mountains. Had the great glacier been moved over the deep-cut gorges of the great desert, they must have been filled and blotted out, and the new-formed streams, on the advent of man, would have been just in the act of surveying new channels for themselves. The bare rock would have been clothed with soil, and the "desert" might have been the garden of the continent.