

to the main bodies of land. In the glacial epoch, however, a phenomenon occurred which, so far as we know, was unprecedented in its universality. The whole northern portion of both continents was covered by glaciers, whose effects were felt in America to the Ohio River, and whose *débris* were borne, in the next epoch, to the Gulf of Mexico. This sudden extension of the range of geological activity was something paralleled by the release of the human species from those restraints which confined all preceding animals within narrow limits, and constituted, like that, an indication that a full pause had been reached in continental preparations—as when the sculptor, after having developed singly, with time and care, the individual features of his work, subjects it finally to that general treatment which imparts the smooth and finished surface.

Lastly, it may be added that vertebrate development both points toward man and attains its consummation in man. The earliest fish which moved in the waters of the Paleozoic seas embodied, in its osteological organization, a prophecy of man; the Mesozoic reptile still pointed onward toward man; the Tertiary monkeys were a higher summit of vertebrate organization from which the yet higher Alp of human structure was still pointed to, illumined by the rising dawn of the modern world. In the skeleton of man we have, at last, the fulfillment of the prophecies of ages.

Man stands in the focus of all the conceptions embodied in past history. We are as little authorized to allow that the course of development is destined to advance beyond him, as to deny that it has furnished intimations, in all ages, that it was destined to reach to him.

Consider, in the second place, man's superiority over the brutes. Among the myriads of animals which populated the earth during the cycles of geological history, supremacy was the reward only of superior force. Man gains su-