

appearance in the form of motion, it reappears in the form of *heat*. This heat seeks an equilibrium by transferring itself to the colder air, in which motion reappears in the heated ascending column. But this motion, in turn, disappears when the heated column, by transference of its heat, has ceased to be warmer than the contiguous air. All force is seeking some affinity with which it may be at rest, or it is striving to effect a motion which will bring its activities to rest. In obedience to the force of gravity, rain falls from the clouds, gathers itself into little rills, which, uniting their forces, join arms with the brooklet, and thence glide in company with the rivulet to the outlet of the valley, and wend their way to the sea. In the deep bed of the ocean the waters rest. The demand of gravity is satisfied. The friction of ascending vapors upon the atmosphere disturbs the equilibrium of the electricities; they flash in anger from cloud to cloud, and between the clouds and the earth, ever striving to restore the equilibrium. When that is effected, all the phenomena resulting from electrical action cease, and would forever cease were not a fresh disturbance introduced. If the electricities are again disturbed, it is because *some other force* is seeking its equilibrium. This other force is out of equilibrium because *some third force* has created disturbance in the search for its own equilibrium, and thus link hangs upon link in this chain of causation. We know not how far back the remotest disturbing force may lie, but of this we may be certain; there is somewhere, or will be somewhere in the future, a last disturbing force. Behind this, all is rest. When this has attained its equilibrium, all the phenomena resulting from the struggle of the forces will cease.

This is a mere abstract statement of the case. It possesses a higher significance than we may suspect. The argument concerns the stability of the very earth on which