

to understand more difficult things in the plans and methods of world-making.

If we decide to interest ourselves in the inquiry, How the world was made and what it has become, we must first give attention to the *materials* of which it is composed. • It is a stone dwelling; it is imperishable—at least as imperishable as granite foundations and massive courses of masonry can render a structure. Here are, indeed, beds of gravel and sand, overspreading the greater part of the country. These are not firmly consolidated, and are easily moved out of place. But they are like the gravel used on the roofs of some buildings—a very insignificant part of the whole. Underneath these loose materials we shall find the solid and enduring foundations. But the study of the loose surface materials is full of interest, because their presence renders the earth habitable. What sort of a home for man or beast would this planet be, if all the loose surface beds were cleared off down to the rocky floor on which they rest? Did you ever hear that question asked before? We must, by all means, begin with the stones, and sands, and clays, which lie upon the surface, or near the surface, and try to ascertain what they are and how they are arranged, and of what use they are to man. Do you think we had better proceed?

II. LOST ROCKS.

BOWLERS.

WHO cares for a cobble-stone? It is a kind of nuisance anywhere—so most people think. The farmer would be glad to have every one of them carted from his fields. I have seen land so thickly covered by them as to be almost impossible to cultivate. In some regions near the coast, in New England, the loose rounded stones lie so close over hundreds of acres that I have traveled by simply stepping from stone to stone.

You will notice that cobble-stones are of various sizes. In fact, it is difficult to state where a cobble-stone is small enough