

Mountains. It comes out of its ice-roofed cavern milky white with the clay sediment which results from the scouring of the rocks by the sliding glacier. The sharp collision of transported rock-fragments accompanies the loud roaring of the impetuous stream. On this occasion, the white streamlet, always rapid, had been swollen to a furious torrent by a recent cloud-burst. The torrent, in its rage, had rent all barriers, and coursed over the adjacent lands. Stones, up to several tons in weight, had been hurled right and left, as the autumn wind disperses the light leaves of the maples along the street. Hundreds of acres lay buried beneath sand and mud, cobble-stones and massive rocks. The rough and rocky slope had received its deposits; the late goat pasture lay concealed beneath a bed of stones, and the grassy flat was hidden by a blanket of gravel and slime.

Observe the power of assortment exerted by the moving water. The heavier rocks were left where the most precipitous hill-side graduated into the sharp slope. Here was the first abatement of the force of the stream. It dropped what could no longer be moved by the diminished power of the torrent. The smaller rocks lay next in order. Where the sharp slope passed into a gentler grade, the still waning force of the maddened stream became insufficient to bear them on. Still beyond, on the lower levels, the flood was widened, its velocity slackened, and its transportative power so abated that the average sized cobble-stones had to be left. Still went on the gravel, and found pause only on the pastures where domestic animals had been grazing. But the sand was borne to the level, and spread itself out over many an arable field and fragrant meadow; while the fine alluvial mud had floated with the tired waters, which sought out sheltered nooks and depressions in which to rest.

This was yesterday. This morning the lesson lay before me. Here were effects of a geological cause on whose action the startled peasant yesterday gazed despairingly. He needs no theory to convince him of the nature and mode of action of the forces which devastated his fields; and I, who found