

some extent. The making of the planet has been merely a progressive changing of the fashion of the materials of which it is composed. If the completed planet as we see it is the product of geological forces, then the work of sedimentation proceeds by means of forces which are geological. The least mentionable portion of that work is performed by such force. The filling of boyhood's mill-pond was a geological work. The slime settled by the roadside is a geological phenomenon. These are results accomplished; let us see how far we can trace them to their causes, and thus unfold a bit of the world's history.

The sediments have been brought by moving waters; we must therefore trace the waters to their sources; we must re-trace their course from the higher level. Obviously, the roadside slime has descended the rill-ways from the middle of the street; from the hill-slope down which a portion of the water descended. Some water flowed down the field-slope, moved under the fences, and found its course to the road-side pool, bringing as much sediment with it as it had power to bear. The corn-fields have been taxed; the earth built into the highway has been stolen; the form and bulk of the hill have been changed. So the farmer's fields contributed the material which lies in the bottom of the mill-pond. To some extent, the fields have been scraped down and impoverished. There lies the farmer's property spread over a surface which forms the floor of the sunfishes' home.

Over every square mile flows some stream. The smallest stream, as well as the largest, occupies a valley; and down its slopes descend the sediment-laden drainage waters which seek the stream to join in its journey to the lower levels. Follow the streamlet. Along every rod of its course we find discharged during a rain the muddy washings of the land. The streamlet grows. Many a lateral rill brings in its contribution from the fields which stretch in another direction. Our streamlet flows on, and sooner or later it discharges its burden in some larger stream, which has already grown to its present volume by the contribution of a score of streamlets