the Devonian strata disappear they go under the Carboniferous strata; and these go under all the newer strata which may be present. Remember, however, as before said, that a whole formation may be found missing in particular places. Strata were deposited only where sea-bottom existed. If the spot was uplifted so as to be dry land during a particular age, the formation belonging to that place can not exist. But if the spot became sea-bottom in the next age, the formation belonging there was deposited, and it does not now lie on the formation of next preceding age, but on the one before that.

So do not imagine ourselves penetrating deeper and deeper into the earth. We examine the systems of strata in the regions where they come to the surface. We may presume they continue under the newer formations to great depths; but I have the opinion that if we could follow them, they would be found gradually growing thinner.

Let us begin by learning where the Devonian strata occupy the surface. Nowhere in New England are they distinctly revealed. Nor in any of the Gulf States. A belt of Devonian strata stretches east and west through central and southern New York, from the Helderberg Mountains to Lake Erie. Thence it passes under Lake Erie and along both shores to the extremity of the lake, and into south-eastern Michigan. Here the outcrop divides; one branch passes south, through the west center of Ohio to the Ohio River, and the other, turning north, goes under Lake Huron and along its western border to the Straits of Mackinac. This branch here bends westward and south-westward, so as to underlie the central and eastern part of Lake Michigan, and border that lake on the east. This branch goes down through Indiana to the Ohio River, at the Falls of the Ohio, lying along the eastern border of the great Coal Field of Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky. A belt also extends from Rock Island, Illinois, north-westward by Iowa City, through the state of Iowa. This system is found also in Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other states.

There is a very useful key to the distribution of the rocks