

picious, that I may have been deceived. I too, at first, was entirely sceptical; for in former geological excursions, I had so often found that the reputed foot marks of animals, were but the result of aqueous or some other alluvial agency, or of human skill, that I would scarcely turn out of my path to see an example;\* but I soon perceived that here was something entirely different. Yet had I found only a single specimen, however distinct, I should still have disbelieved. Or had I found the tracks at the quarries, sometimes a depression, and sometimes rising above the surface, I might have styled them concretions. Or had I found little or no correspondence between the impressions, and no regular succession of steps, I should have attempted to account for them in some other way; or have left them unexplained. But when I found that in all these respects, there was no room for scepticism, when I saw that the right and left foot could be clearly distinguished, when I could hardly distinguish

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\* Encouraged by the facts that have been detailed, and led to hope for success from several very glowing descriptions that I had received of foot marks upon stone in Rhode Island, I was led recently to perform a journey of two hundred and fifty miles, for their examination. They occur about two miles north of the village of Wickford, on the road to Providence; and every person of whom I enquired, within twenty miles of the spot, seemed to be acquainted with the impressions there, under the name of "the Devil's Track." But I saw no evidence of any agency there, except that of water. And it seemed to me that the only reason why every one does not impute the effects to water, is the difficulty of conceiving how a stream could have ever flowed in that spot for a long time, as it must have done, to produce the excavations; for it is near the top of a ridge of gneiss rock, passing into mica slate; and no excavation exists that could have formed the bed of the stream. But the geologist is not surprised to find marks of powerful aqueous agency any where on the earth's surface, even though he cannot explain its *modus operandi*. I could not explain it satisfactorily in this instance; for the direction of the current seems to have been from N. E. to S. W. or the contrary, and I know of no other marks of aqueous agency in New England, (except existing streams,) where the waters moved in either of these directions; but that the excavations called tracks, were the result of running water, I can have little doubt. They extend for several rods in the direction in which the rocks run, and imagination has made some of them resemble the foot of a man, others of a dog, and others of an animal with a hoof. I saw but one or two that had much resemblance to any of these, and in some instances, they were a foot or two in length, and generally from one to four inches deep. But if you found one of them resembling the foot of an animal or a man, you could not find any corresponding impressions in any direction to show a succession of steps. I might proceed much further with this description, and present sketches of some of these excavations; but I judge it unnecessary, as similar ones may be seen wherever water has been running for years with violence over rocks. Yet from the strong impression that exists on the public mind, as to the mysterious if not supernatural manner in which these excavations were made, I should not think it strange if several generations should pass away, before the delusion vanishes.