

geological history of a country should often, as in this instance, seem typical of its subsequent civil history. If a country's geologic history had been much disturbed,—if the trap rock had broken out from below, and tilted up its strata in a thousand abrupt angles, steep precipices, and yawning chasms, I found the chances as ten to one that there succeeded, when man came upon the scene, a history, scarce less disturbed, of fierce wars, protracted sieges, and desperate battles. The stormy morning during which merely the angry elements had contended, I found succeeded in almost every instance by a stormy day maddened by the turmoil of human passion. But a little reflection dissipated the mystery; though it served to show through what immense periods mere physical causes may continue to operate with moral effect, and how, in the purposes of Him who saw the end from the beginning, a scene of fiery confusion,—of roaring waves and heaving earthquakes, of ascending hills and deepening valleys,—may have been closely associated with the right development and ultimate dignity and happiness of the moral agent of creation,—unborn at the time,—reasoning, responsible man. It is amid these centres of geologic disturbance, the natural strongholds of the earth, that the true battles of the race, the battles of civilisation and civil liberty, have been successfully maintained by handfuls of hardy men, against the despot-led myriads of the plains. In glancing over a map of Europe and the countries adjacent, on which the mountain groups are marked, you will at once perceive that Greece and the Holy Land, Scotland and the Swiss cantons, formed centres of great plutonic disturbance of this character. They had each their geologic tremors and perturbations,—their protracted periods of eruption and earthquake,—long ere their analogous civil history, with its ages of convulsion and revolution, in which man was the agent, had yet commenced its course. And, indirectly at least, the disturbed civil history was