

ages before the Christian era. The ancient Greek fable of the floating islands called Symplegades probably originated in the volcanic movements of the earth's crust in the vicinity of the Thracian Bosphorus, the ineffaceable traces of which are still to be seen.

The entire chain of the Aleutian Islands, ranging across the North Pacific from Alaska to Kamtschatka, is but a series of vestiges of an ancient ridge of land now worn out, but originally raised by the power of volcanic fires which are even to-day smouldering beneath the bed of the sea. These fires, as late as 1796, burst out a few miles north of the island of Unalaska, and added another member to the group, which has continued to grow in size till recent times.

As might be expected, the records of continental oscillations are not confined to sea-coast lines, but may be detected along our lakes and in the valleys of the rivers.

If such changes occur in a lifetime, what may not a slow subsidence or elevation amount to in the lifetime of our race? A depression in the valley of the Lower Mississippi of only three hundred feet would admit the waters of the Gulf of Mexico up to the mouth of the Ohio. A trifling depression in Northern Illinois would furnish an outlet to the Gulf for Lakes Michigan, Superior, and Huron. A depression of eight hundred feet would submerge nearly the whole of the Southern and Western States.

How easy, then, in view of facts which every body can observe, to admit the geological doctrine of the former submergence of all the continents. The shells broken from the wall of the gorge at Trenton Falls, though unlike any fresh-water forms, are still the kindred of beings now living in the Atlantic; and, with the evidence before us, we can not resist the conviction that the dominion of the sea once extended over the Empire State. As the relics of Roman