

most demonstrable for that which is contrary to all observation. The geological doctrine is not to deny the unlimited power of Deity, for nothing has done more than geology to unfold and demonstrate that power. It is to apply the same reasoning to geological facts as we apply to other phenomena. In the material world, and within the scope of our investigation, we witness no result which is not the effect of the antecedent energy of what we call secondary causes, operating according to established methods. Whatever can be accounted for by reference to such modes of operation, we feel ourselves precluded from attributing to an extraordinary and miraculous agency.

In view of the facts, therefore, we regard it as certain that a large part of the solid crust of our globe has passed through an ablution in the sea. Particle by particle, grain by grain, pebble by pebble, has been worn from the pre-existing rocks; and, after being rolled to and fro for ages by the surges of the sea, has found its way to the deep and quiet ocean-bed. There layers innumerable have been piled upon it. Some of the agencies of Nature have solidified these vast accumulations of sediment; an earthquake-throe has resulted in the birth of a continent, over which the mighty mutations of a geological epoch have swept in grandeur which no human eye was yet created to contemplate; then, in the preappointed order of Providence, man came upon the earth; and to-day, after the lapse of an interval of time which, to human apprehension, is infinite, we split open the solid layer, and behold! the very pebble of granite which was loosed from the primitive rock in the dim ages of the earth's history, which reach far back into the eternity of God! And by its side is a form—an animal form—clearly an animal form; but, if we search the world through, we shall not find its like among existing beings. It is a strange and uncouth form. It was one of