

CHAPTER VIII.

THE FRONT OF THE PROCESSION OF LIFE.

THE spirits have come forth. The life-giving *afflatus* has been breathed into multitudes of organic forms which now teem in the PALEOZOIC sea.

“Say, mysterious Earth! oh say, great Mother and Goddess!
 Was it not well with thee then, when first thy lap was ungirdled,
 Thy lap to the genial Heaven, the day that he wooed thee and won thee?
 Fair was thy blush, the fairest and first of the blushes of morning;
 Deep was the shudder, oh Earth! the throe of thy self-retention;
 July thou strovest to flee, and didst seek thyself at thy centre!
 Mightier far was the joy of thy sudden resilience; and forthwith
 Myriad myriads of lives teemed forth from the mighty embracement,
 Thousand fold tribes of dwellers, impelled by thousand fold instincts,
 Filled as a dream the wide waters.”

The long period of almost total lifelessness—the Eozoic TIME—it will be remembered, was brought to a close by the upheaval of a long ridge of land, extending from the coast of Labrador to the northern shores of the great lakes, and thence northwest to the Arctic Sea. Corresponding upheavals took place on other continents. A convulsion could not jar one half the globe without being felt upon the other half, and hence it is that all the grand revolutions of geology were simultaneous, and the histories of different continents are divided into corresponding chapters. We confine our attention, however, to North America. The germinal ridge consists of an axis or nucleus of granitic material, and on each side of a series of gneissoid and other eozoic strata sloping like the roof of a house from the central and highest part. We know that this upheaval took place *after* the deposition of the eozoic strata, because those strata could not have been deposited in their present