

witnessed a greater profusion of life than the Hamilton. The germs of being were thickly strewn over every part of the ocean's floor. Chambered shells were on the wane; but Brachiopods and new forms of corals sprang forth in exuberant growth, and we pick their fossil forms to-day, like nuts, from the dried ocean mud.

Another æon passes; the empire of the sea crumbles before the conquest of the land, and we add next the belt of the "Chemung group" to the growing margins of the land. Toward the west the bottom of the sea experiences at this time but little change of level, and the Chemung sediments abide another epoch to receive upon their backs the sands and mud of the "Waverly group;" eastward, however, new land is made by an extensive uplift of the sea bottom. Thus the Empire State is almost completed; Wisconsin has taken her place; the centre of Michigan is occupied by an inland sea. The great ocean washes the southeastern shores of Ohio, and wild waves career over the future plantations of the prairie farmer in Illinois. Some parts of Eastern Iowa, and Missouri, and Arkansas, and Northern Texas begin to emerge, but the boundless waste of Pacific waters is still at work upon the materials of Kansas, and Nebraska, and the regions beyond.

Among the accumulated treasures of this epoch, behold the first vestiges of an arborescent vegetation! All before this had been fucoidal in its characters. Here we find, imbedded in the friable sandstone, some stems of trees—pieces of drift-wood floated from some neighboring shore, and, like the dove of Noah, bearing us tales of the vegetation upon the land. The sandstones of Southern New York inclose such records of the vegetal life of the Chemung. Corresponding sandstones in the distant peninsula of Gaspé, Canada East, have been constrained to yield similar testimony from their locked and ancient archives—thanks to