

other southern regions more remote from the northern source of the sediments the rocks of the age are represented by the "Mountain Limestone." [See Appendix, Note IV.]

I am here led to direct the reader's attention to an important law which has governed the distribution of sediments in all the periods of American paleozoic history. The continent, it will be remembered, was always toward the north. Soundings in the North Atlantic indicate that the actual foundations of the continent extend northeastward beneath the water far beyond the limits of the existing land. Far back in the antiquity of our continent the Labrador branch possessed an extent which no longer appears. It projected itself in that direction almost to mid-ocean. It has been eaten up by the waves of the Atlantic. The bones of the continent lie scattered along from the "Grand Banks" to Maine. Newfoundland, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and the numberless islands and peninsulas of the northeast coast, are the remnants of the meal which old Ocean has made of the right wing of America. Out of the wasted continent of paleozoic times the agencies of Nature have built up the substructures of the Northern United States. All the strata to which I have referred were formed of the *ruins* of rocks that had long before been dry land. Thus the materials came from the northeast. And thus it happens that every formation is coarser in that direction, and finer toward the centre of the continent. Thus even the age which witnessed the accumulation of pebbles or sand at the East, witnessed the deposition of a fine calcareous mud in the deeper, quieter waters which rested over the Mississippi Valley (compare Fig. 15).

Another thought introduces itself into the company of this one. It is the law of the secular recurrence of identical lithological conditions. This law attracted my atten-