

face of the rock (see Fig. 73). Series of tracks of various sizes and species often traverse the same slab. Dr. Deane sent to the British Museum, in 1844, three slabs covered with footmarks, one of which is eight feet long and six feet wide, and contains over seventy tracks made by ten or twelve different individuals. Professor Marsh is at this moment engaged in forming a grand standard collection of these footprints for the museum of Yale College, and has already created a collection second only to that at Amherst.

The largest tracks thus far observed are twenty inches in length, and were made by a reptile which had a stride of three feet, and appears to have walked like a biped, only occasionally bringing his fore feet to the ground. One of the specimens of this species in the Amherst cabinet is a slab thirty feet long, containing eleven tracks. A slab in the British Museum is impressed by footprints fifteen inches in length, forming a consecutive series of five or six, and being from four to five feet apart. Whether bird or Saurian, it must have been a formidable beast to be seen striding along the beach. Such populations once swarmed upon the plains of the Connecticut Valley, now vocal with the hum of civilized life.

It is a solemn and impressive thought that the footprints of these dumb and senseless creatures have been preserved in all their perfection for thousands of ages, while so many of the works of man which date but a century back have been obliterated from the records of time. Kings and conquerors have marched at the head of armies across continents, and piled up aggregates of human suffering and experience to the heavens, and all the physical traces of their march have totally disappeared; but the solitary biped which stalked along the margins of a New England inlet before the human race was born, pressed footprints in the soft and shifting sand which the rising and sinking of the