

middle, the vestiges of brackish-water life; and in the last deposits, only relics of fresh waters mingled with washings from the land.

On the White River, in the Territory of Dakotah, in the region where it approaches nearest to the Big Cheyenne, are the *Mauvaises Terres*, or Bad Lands, where Nature seems to have collected together the relics of a geological age, and buried them in one vast sepulchre.

The country to the west and southwest of Fort Pierre, for some hundreds of miles, is an elevated, gently undulating prairie, through which the streams have cut deep gorges for their passage to the larger rivers. It is a vast basin filled with the still horizontal and semi-indurated sediments of an inland sea. The wear of the weather has left many deep scars on the face of the country, and the Bad Lands present us with the mere ruins of a formation which was once continuous. The whole country is treeless and desolate. The soil beneath the feet of the traveler conceals the bones of the numerous populations which enjoyed existence in the earlier Tertiary epochs. The whole scene has the air of the domain of death and solitude. On catching a glimpse of the Bad Lands proper, a most impressive exhibition presents itself. Here, in the surface of a vast plain, is a sunken area thirty miles wide and ninety miles long (Fig. 78). From the bottom of this sunken plain rise domes, and pinnacles, and monuments, and massive walls, which persuade the traveler that he is about to witness the movements and listen to the hum of a vast city. In the language of Dr. Evans—an eminent geologist who almost “dwelt among the tombs” of the ancient world, as they lie stretched out from the Mississippi to the Pacific shores—“these rocky piles, in their endless succession, assume the appearance of massive artificial structures, decked out with all the accessories of buttress and turret, arched