mowing down the forests, crushing tree-trunks, or burying them, with the rubbish of the rocks, from ten to sixty feet beneath the surface. Such buried tree-trunks have thus lain to the present day, and we frequently encounter them in deep excavations for wells, though my friend Professor Lesquereux has strangely asserted the contrary. With other relics of the vegetation of the ancient world were necessarily buried the seeds and fruits of the species then in existence, a fact of which I shall find the use hereafter, in speaking of prairies.

The great glacier moved onward, unheeding equally rocky knob, and swelling hill, and river gorge. I have stated that from the close of the Carboniferous Age the Northern States were dry land. Rains fell, as now, upon the surface, and nourished the vegetation which had found a foothold. The surplus waters gathered themselves, as now, into streamlets large and small, and these, on their way to the sea, wore river-channels in the surface rocks. Across these rivers, across these gorges, the great glacier strode, ignorant of the obstacles to its movement. It bridged Niagara River, it bridged Long Island Sound, and bathed itself in the mild waters of the ocean beyond. It obliterated river-channels, and dug out new ones. It plowed anew the country marked off by the feebler agencies of the preceding epoch. It made a *tabula rasa*, and outlined after a different pattern the topographical and hydrographical features of the Northern States. Many an ancient river-channel has been brought to light by railroad excavations, and more especially by the borings for petroleum that have taken place within the last few years. In many instances the general rocky structure of a region has determined the location of the streams through the same valleys as before the work of the glacier; but even here we find the position slightly varied, and in nearly all cases