

will be peacefully annexed to the dominions of the American eagle.

These are events and phenomena whose history reaches down to the present, and whose promises extend into the future. Let us turn back our thoughts for a moment, and reinspect the phenomena and results wrought out by the ocean on occasion of his last supremacy over the land. It seemed, indeed, as if the work of Nature had proved a failure; but this very inundation had been embraced in the plans of infinite Beneficence. I have already alluded to the assorting action exerted upon the loose materials left upon the surface by the retiring glacier. Large portions of the drift were completely worked over, and redeposited under a semi-stratified arrangement. Who has not stood in a railroad-cut through a bank of these materials, and witnessed the bands of variously-colored sands and clays exposed in the walls of the cut? From such an exposure of the internal structure of these hills and ridges one may learn that they consist of beds of clay of various extent, and variously inclined in reference to each other, between which the spaces are filled up with sand and pebbles. Now this circumstance, accidental as it seems to be, has contributed immensely to human convenience. The rains which fall upon the surface of the earth percolate through the superficial layers of sand and gravel, but always, sooner or later, reach one of these strata of clay, by which the farther downward progress of the water is arrested. Upon the top of such a bed of clay the water accumulates. It saturates the overlying sands. It is true that it will slowly follow the descent of the clay bed, and will reach its margin, and begin another descent. It will soon be arrested again in a similar manner, and will form a deeper-seated reservoir, which in turn will overflow and contribute to a third. Thus every clayey stratum, whether of great or small ex-