and vegetable constituents of a soil accumulated upon a lake-bottom. We find in it, moreover, abundant fossil remains of a lacustrine character. Fresh-water shells of species still existing in Lake Michigan are found in localities many miles from the existing shore. Finally, we have found all around the chain of the great lakes abundant proofs that their waters once occupied a much higher level than at present. We have discovered the obstacle which dammed the waters to this extraordinary height. In short, we have ascertained that the prairie region of Illinois must have been a long time inundated, whether such inundation contributed to the characteristics of the prairies or not. I think it did. If I ascertain that the cause for an inundation exists; if I see the traces of an inundation all the way from Niagara River to Illinois; if the barrier which shuts out Illinois from the lake is not one third the height of the ancient lake-flood; if I find throughout the region exposed to inundation the peculiar soil deposited by fresh waters, together with traces of lacustrine animals which never wander over land, do I not discover a chain of facts which necessitates my conclusion? During the flood-tide of the lakes, Lake Michigan must have found an outlet toward the south. We find corroboration of this. The broad. and deep, and bluff-lined valley of the Illinois River was never excavated by the present inconsiderable stream. The deserted river valley discoverable at intervals farther north, indicates the former southward flow of a large volume of water. At Lemont this valley is distinct, with its bounding bluffs, and its "pot-holes" worn in the solid rock of the ancient river-bed. This was the work of the lake in its declining stages. At the earlier period, when the waters of Lake Michigan stood one or two hundred feet above their present level, how much of the region south and west of Chicago must have been submerged?

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