

hands execute all the behests of your convenience." Had chance formed the beds of coal under such a concurrence of auspicious and beneficent conditions, chance would not have brought it to our doors; chance would not have rescued it from burial beneath the sediments of a thousand following ages; chance would not have laid by in the same beds the ores of iron which the coal is fitted to reduce; chance would not have stored in the same relation the beds of limestone, to be used as a flux in the reduction of the iron ores by means of the mineral coal. See what provident Nature has done with other metals! Was it accident that enriched the upper peninsula of Michigan with her wealth of native copper? Or has there been in existence upon our earth any other being than man to whom these riches possessed the least utility or interest? The ores of copper lie buried a mile beneath the sandstones of the "Pictured Rocks." The sediments of unknown cycles of years were gathered upon the beds of valuable ores. At length, while the world was preparing for man, a fiery outburst threw the deep-buried treasures to the surface. It did more. It reduced their refractory ores for the hand of man, and enabled him to gather directly the native metal. Still more. The same fiery outburst bent the flinty rocks into the form of a huge trough, and Heaven sent down water to fill it and float the steam-spiced vessel to the copper-bearing shore. And lastly, lest the manhood of our race should be spent before the discovery of the treasure, all-provident Nature broke up samples of cupriferous rock, and strewed them along the shore, and along the river-courses, so that, when man should find them, he might trace the trail, as by a clew, to the original store-house of the native metal. And all these preparations, and provisions, and utilities have no relations to any other terrestrial denizen than man.