

ance. The problem has thus become much more complicated than with simpler geological structure it would have been. Its solution has demanded an amount of knowledge of geological structure which can hardly be acquired without long and laborious training, the want of which on the part of many who have taken part in the controversy has led to the calling in question or denial of facts, about the reality and meaning of which there should never have been any doubt at all. That, in spite of these obstacles, observers in this country should have been able to brush aside the accidental or adventitious difficulties and get at the real gist of the matter, as I am certain they have done, seems to me a lasting proof of their scientific prowess.

Now, it is unquestionably true that had the birthplace of geology lain on the west side of the Rocky Mountains, this controversy would never have arisen. The efficacy of denudation instead of evoking doubt, discussion, or denial, would have been one of the first obvious principles of the science, established on the most irrefragable basis of patent and most impressive facts. Over thousands of square miles in that region the strata remain practically unchanged from their original horizontal position, so that the effects of surface erosion can at once be detected upon their flat parallel layers. The country has not been under the sea for a vast succession of geological periods. It has not been buried, like so much of Northern Europe and North-Eastern America, under a thick cover of ice-borne clays and gravels. Its level platforms of sandstone, shale, clay, or limestone lie at the surface, bare to the wind and rain, and their lines can be followed mile after mile, as if the whole region were one vast geological model to which the world should come to learn the fundamental laws of denudation.

For the exploration of these western territories the