

stream is supplied by springs. It gets directly from rains only so much as flows from the surface of the basin which the river drains. Most of the rain falling within the basin, however, sinks into the ground, and finds its way into the stream only in the form of spring water. But when a stream flows over a drift-formed bed, much water wastes away. Besides this, many deep water-basins convey their contents under the river. So the river never contains the whole amount of water which falls within the basin which it drains.

Suppose all the water-basins under a township or a county should cease to exist, what would become of wells and springs? You understand at once that they would dry up. Therefore the streams would dry up. The water would settle to the Boulder Clay or the bed-rock, and there would be the only accumulation. Every well must then be sunk to that depth—even if it were two hundred feet. And wells would be the only resort, for of springs there would be none; of brooks there would be none; of ponds and lakelets there would be none. Then, again, the Drift sands being so dry, little evaporation would take place from the earth's surface. The air would be dry; no dew would condense; no clouds would form, and so the rains would stop descending, unless some other region could supply us with clouds. How beneficent, then, are the clay-beds! Literally, they are all which saves many a fertile region from becoming a desert and an uninhabitable waste. We looked carelessly at these courses of sands and clays exposed in the railroad cut, and thought, perhaps, they only served to form a pile of earth for the railroad builder to cart into the neighboring filling. How admirably the constitution of the Drift is suited to human wants! To us it looks as if it had been an intentional preparation for man. There are persons, however, who prefer to say it is not so; but man is here only because the situation is one which permits him to be here. But we are sure, at least, that a happy coördination exists between our necessities and our surroundings; and the constitution of things which brings enjoyment out of the coördination is a beneficent constitution.