

sulting from the vast erosions that have taken place along its western border. In central Tennessee, indeed, this erosive process has excavated a basin a hundred miles in diameter, bounded on all sides by the ragged edges of the formations which were left.

So this completed work of erosive powers which have retired from action is commemorated in many a monument-like *outlier* in Wisconsin and Minnesota. A great formation which once overspread many a township has all been carried away, save here and there an isolated remnant which lies like an island in the midst of geology of a different character. It is the Potsdam Sandstone which has been thus eroded; but wide areas still remain, and underlie portions of those states. Similar are the columns in Monument Park, and the ruins in the "Garden of the gods." Like the great basin of central Tennessee are many of the excavations in the Bad Lands of the Upper Missouri and in New Mexico. We shall have other occasion to talk about these; for they are burial places of the brute populations which held possession of America before the advent of man.

These two great processes, erosion and sedimentation, must be vividly appreciated. The whole history of the visible land has consisted chiefly of up-building and destruction, rebuilding and disintegration, by the action of forces which have left gigantic monuments of their former power, and are even in our times, working on a scale large enough to illustrate to us how the foundations of the land were laid, and how the face of the earth has been carved into the fashion it presents to our interested eyes.

In another walk we must follow the sediments, under the sea, and try to learn what goes on in the mysterious abysses through which no highway has been opened.