control. When it leaves a body contraction ensues, and the strength of this tendency can not be resisted by any means in our power. Loss of heat is always attended by contraction except when the temperature is a few degrees above that at which the body passes from the liquid to the crystalline solid state—for there is a certain critical point at which reduction of temperature begins to be accompanied by expansion, until the solid condition is attained; after which further reduction is attended again by contraction.

Now, ever since Leibnitz, two hundred years ago, enunciated his theory of a once molten earth, geognostic students have been considering what must be the natural course of events in the cooling of such a globe. Constant Prévost advanced a suggestion sound in theory and fruitful in consequences. That molten globe, he said, must have become incrusted. By degrees the crust would thicken, and the transmission of heat from the interior would be retarded. By and by, the radiation of heat from the exterior would become diminished to such an extent as to just equal the heat received at the surface by transmission through the crust. That is, a constant temperature would exist at the surface of the eartha constant temperature at the mid-zone in the crust. But the interior would still continue to lose heat through the crust, though the crust retained a uniform temperature. It the interior did not supply heat to the crust, the latter would grow colder.

So the interior, in consequence of loss of heat would contract; but the crust, losing no more than it receives, would not contract. That is, the crust would become too large for the shrunken nucleus. What would result? Do you conceive that the crust would rest raised above the nucleus, leaving vacant, or even steam-filled spaces between the two? Remember the enormous weight of the atmosphere—fourteen pounds on every square inch. Remember the enormous weight of the crust, and the utter impossibility of its sustaining the strain of bulging ver a vacuum of one, ten or a hundred miles. Assuredly, the crust must settle down as fast as the molten nucleus grows smaller.