

flesh and instinct with life. It towers before us a huge, ungainly beast, eighteen feet in length and eight feet high, having a tapir-like head, an elephantine body, and hind feet and tail which find no match in geologic or historic time. Such super-mammoth haunches, nearly six feet across; such singular, half-hoofed, half-clawed extremities; so slow and awkward in his movements; so stupid in look—he seems the lord of the Pampas. His thick and callous hide is scantily clothed with coarse, stiff hair. He seeks his food from the leaves of the forest. Other leaf-eaters possess various provision for securing their food. The elephant is furnished with an elongated proboscis. The giraffe is uplifted on fore-legs of extraordinary length, supplemented by a neck of length equally extraordinary, and lips and tongue co-ordinated with other parts of his outfit. The sloth ascends the tree and places himself in the midst of the foliage on which he must subsist. Our Megatherium has none of the provisions of the elephant or giraffe, and is too ponderous to be borne by the branches of a tree. He raises himself in a semi-erect attitude, supported by that tripod formed of tail and hind feet, and reaches with his forelimbs to the foliage and gathers it in. When the supply falls short, he employs his powerful effodient feet to hurl the earth from the roots of the tree, and bring it down by his colossal strength. Then he stretches himself alongside of the prostrate tree and gathers its foliage at his leisure.

These are samples of the relics of the Quaternary Age. Those who become interested will find further information in works on geology. In North America are found remains of a pig-like creature, a gigantic beaver and some Edentates. They are found imbedded in sand and fluviatile deposits, accumulated, like the elephant-bearing peats, after the Drift. The boulder Drift is mostly destitute of organic remains. Probably the severity of the temperature and the prevalence of ice rendered animal life impossible. What the facts were, it will be our business to ascertain; and by and by we shall be in a position to reconstruct the story of the times.