

other strata I have picked up oyster shells seven inches in diameter, and nearly round. Single valves, I think weigh sometimes two or three pounds. One might have broiled oyster steaks if he had lived in those days. The Cretaceous strata seem to have been a literal oyster cemetery.

But who, after all, would prefer to have lived in those times? Even had human society been supplied, the world was really not prepared for man. We do not find any bones of horses or oxen, or any of our domestic and useful animals. Nor do we find remains of any of our fruit-bearing trees—or berries of any kind. I think we should have lost more than all the gain—far more. Instead of relics of domestic animals, we discover teeth and vertebræ of sharks of different tribes—some with tapering, lance-like teeth, some very long and slender, and some flat and lying like paving stones on the bottom of the mouth. Here too are the vertebræ of a long and snake-like reptile known as *Mosasaur*. It was probably a genuine “sea-serpent.” The relics of these ancient populations are now plowed up in the cotton fields. In the region south of Selma I have seen the precious relics of curious and extraordinary shells, which we call *Rudistes*, carted together and burned for lime to whitewash log-cabins.

From Texas, the great Cretaceous belt can be traced northward to Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, Dakota, and British America. It extends, indeed, along the east flanks of the Rocky Mountains, apparently to the Arctic Ocean. These are interesting facts. They demonstrate that there was a time when an ocean stretched from the Gulf of Mexico, through the middle of our continent, to the Arctic. These Cretaceous strata contain neither chalk nor “rotten limestone.” They were not formed in a deep sea. There are vast formations of clay and shale, and at the bottom is a thick sandstone, often conglomeritic, which can be traced from Kansas to the Wahsatch Mountains—but not in one continuous sheet. All these Cretaceous strata being formed of fragments coarse or fine, are called *fragmental*. Evidently they were laid down in waters mostly shallow, and to a great extent, near the