

destined to be torn up in the human age, to serve as foundation stones for more elegant structures. Through another age still, the impending events, heralded by the floating log, were destined to be delayed. Meantime the waters deepened, and nature seemed to have forgotten her announcement. She had promised land and green forests; she gave deep sea and an expansion of the empire of bony-scaled ganoids. She gave larger development to Brach'io-pods; she dallied with the chambered shells, and gave the world an improved type, which we have named *Go-ni-a-ti'-tes*. She lingered lovingly over one of her ancient conceptions which we style crinoidal. She had had it in her repertory of beautiful thoughts since early Cambrian times—the pretty little stone lily. She had taken it up in every age, and had turned off some improvements and some new decorations. But now, during this waiting period, she seems to have returned with true devotion to one of her first ideas. She gave great attention to diversifying it, decorating it, and filling the sea with its delicate and graceful forms. All for the Age—not for perpetuity; for if, while we stand on this verge of a grand epoch, we lift the veil which separates the one beyond, we find the crinoidal conception gradually falling into forgetfulness. Larger works occupied the hands of nature, and she finally set apart the deep sea for the preservation of a few crinoidal illustrations for man's instruction, and left them to await the last age—as the European aurochs still lingers in the protected forests of Lithuania, and the American bison will continue to flourish in the Yellowstone Park.

This dream of placid waters and teeming populations was broken by a jar. Some stay of the long pressed crust of the earth was broken by the accumulated strain, and the mud of the sea was stirred from its prolonged repose, and floated over the fields where stone-lilies had flourished, generation after generation. Tenants of the sea alarmed, retreated to deeper waters or perished in their homes, and received a Pompeiian burial. The ocean-bottom had been lifted to a higher level. The scene was totally changed. The summer sea became a