

near Boston, one hundred feet; on Nantucket, eighty-five feet. Northward, on the contrary, the submergence increased in depth. On the coast of Labrador, it was five hundred feet; in Barrows' Strait, it was over one thousand feet. The usual opinion is that this submergence occurred *after* the dissolution of the glacier; but I incline to the conviction that it was coincident with the glacier. I have already suggested, following Croll and general opinion, that a load of northern ice would very probably cause submergence of northern shores—though I think it resulted from depression of the crust, rather than a shifting of the center of gravity. Such submergence would be greatest northward. The facts observed seem to show that it was a submergence of the glacial epoch, instead of the post-glacial. If the sunken shores were already buried in ice, the temperature of the sea would dissolve it, and the sea-bottom would be of the usual character of a submerged beach.

The depths of submergence just mentioned are far less than would have taken place, if the crust of earth had yielded readily to the pressure of five thousand feet of ice. To have influenced the temperature, there must have been a much greater subsidence from the point of maximum elevation. It is reasonable to conclude that the action which caused the original elevation was now reversed, and much greater subsidence took place than was due to the load of ice.

Whatever the amount of subsidence; whatever its cause; whatever the cause of the climatic amelioration, there is no question about the return of a geological spring. The glacier began to waste more than its annual growth. A steady recession began along its southern margin. A series of morainic loops was left to mark its farthest advance. They were composed of boulders and sand. The materials were accumulated in hills and ridges, with intervening "pot-holes" and valleys. The dissolution of the ice-field proceeded with rapidity. Lively rills flowed over the surface of the ice, and turbid streams sprang from the foot of the glacier—such streams as make the Aar (Talk VIII) and the Arve (Talk IV). The moraine de-