http://www.geology.19thcenturyscience.org/books/1905-Geikie-FoundersGeol/README.htm

in this capacity he had noted that the heaviest rain does not moisten the earth for more than ten feet downward, most of it flowing off into the beds of streams. He gives his opinion, therefore, that rain may make a torrent or help to swell a stream, but that it cannot of itself be the source of a river flowing with an equable course between its banks. If he is asked whence, then, does the water of rivers come, he replies that the question is as inept as it would be to demand where air and earth come from. Water being one of the four elements forms a fourth part of nature. Why then should we be surprised if it can always keep pouring out? He knows that just as in the human body there are veins which when ruptured send forth blood, so in the earth there are veins of water which are found even in the driest places, at depths of two or three hundred feet below the surface, and which when laid open issue in springs and rivers. The water at these depths, so far below the limits to which rain can moisten the earth, is not regarded by him as of atmospheric origin, but living water (*aqua viva*), for as all things are contained in all, the earth, water and air can pass into each other. The earth contains water which it presses out and also air which, by the cold of winter, it condenses into moisture; the earth itself is also resolvable into moisture.

Coming to the consideration of water at the surface, he is on sounder ground when he discusses the regime of rivers. He can see no more reason why

stones and destroying monuments, even the most minute and slender rootlets being able to split open large rocks and crags, II. vi. 5.