

all intelligent men as the *molten state of the primitive earth*. At this our starting point let us be sure that we are right, and I ask the reader to see that the writer does not slip from this rock. It is well known by geologists whose eagle eyes have pierced the earth to its granite sills, that its oldest sedimentary beds now rest on what was once an igneous mass. The sedimentary formations are of great thickness, estimated variously at from ten to forty miles, or even more, and such is the testimony of the lowermost beds that the geological world, with no important exceptions, stands solidly in support of the proposition that the earth was once an igneous liquid mass.

But we can bring other witnesses to testify in this case. It must be conceded that all worlds in all essentials *are made alike*. This is what countless millions of stars and suns affirm. Every sphere that scintillates in the empyrean must be a molten globe. The spectroscope affirms the proposition and tells us across the mighty void of space that all worlds *begin their career alike*—swaddled in garments of flame as our sun is swaddled now; rocked in its cradle of fire inveterate, as every other sun is rocked to-day. Thus our earth was once a glittering, blazing star, so surely as law is law. But the chief witness we have close at hand, whose testimony nothing can impeach, is the great ocean of water that rolls around the earth. We know that every drop of it was formed in fire. If I plunge a cold steel rod for an instant in the hottest furnace, I find it covered with little globules of water, and thus we learn that water is being formed in the most fervent fires. That is what every fire on earth is doing to-day. Every furnace and volcano is pouring its tribute of water into the air.

We stand on the ocean's shore. The truest, strongest and most daring and dauntless witness of earth testifies before us. If every drop of these mighty waters was born in flame, what was the immeasurable and titanic might of the earth's primal furnace from which these waters came? Now the chemist wants no other proof than the deposition of oceans that the world was once a molten sphere. Then as oceans affirm an