

that by some measurements which have been made, Lake Superior is found to be six hundred and twenty-seven feet above the level of the sea, and its bed three hundred and thirty-six feet below that level, together giving a total depth of nine hundred and sixty-three feet, thus forming an immense concavity in the country, which if connected with the ocean would instantly be filled to the depth of three hundred and thirty-six feet of salt water. Now let us suppose that this concavity was instantly emptied of its present contents, and all the streams issuing into it at the same time stopt above its present surface level ; here then we would have an immense empty concavity with its bottom much below the level of the Ocean, and much more below all the standing and living waters of the surrounding continent for hundreds of miles distant.—Also as this concavity may have been formed from a very remote eruptive cause, its geological structure will be in all probability, wholly declining or dipping towards its centre, through which the filtration of water from a considerable distance may from all sides collect into it, and thus form a supply to this lake over and above that by the rains, and in all probability be an annual constant quantity, to discharge by the St. Lawrence, but would maintain the mean height of Lake Ontario at a higher level than by the latter only.

However, the above supposed additional supply to the rains may be, or not be, we have not yet found any cause, which would progressively raise the mean height of the lakes, or annually increase the supply, and therefore our last enquiry is to find if there are any to successively depress this height, or by which the supply may be annually lessened.

In all countries covered with forests, the first step of occupation is to clear them off for the cultivation of the land, which is generally done along the borders of the rivers, thus exposing the surfaces of both land and water on a greater extent to the direct rays of the sun and to the sweeping winds ; which exposure consequently will greatly increase the evaporation over those surfaces, many times more, than when under entire shade, especially to the latter ; also the cultivation of the land by turning up and opening of the soil, gives it an additional absorbent