

anxiety and unbounded hopes of him who had delved to make it a satisfactory home for his ambition.

The present revealings on the surface of Greenland, where a few hundred years ago were green fields, waving forests, flowing rivers, populous and thrifty villages and a contented people, show only mountains of ice, all nature congealed, a country of desolation and snow. This change has been gradual, and the temperature is still declining.

Iceland, too, is slowly undergoing a similar change. At the same rate of decadence in another hundred years it will cease to be habitable. Already such portions of the population as have means are removing to the northern latitudes of America. The island, like Greenland, will soon be a cold and dreary desolation, to so remain until other changes shall transpire, when it may again, in a lower latitude, become the home of man; but ages of frost and ice must first mark its site; other lands in turn, now nearly tropical, must become frigid; and then it is questionable if any traces of man, even as insignificant as the stone axe or arrow head, shall remain to excite wonder or curiosity among those who shall delve in its soil.

While we can account for the gradual changing of the polarity of the earth and the shifting of climates—the glacial period always existing in some parts of the earth—we cannot, by the same mode of reasoning, explain why whole continents are suddenly submerged, or why the beds of oceans, as suddenly, become continents.

The equatorial diameter of the earth is greater than the polar by some thirty-four miles. While the centre of gravity remains as now the polar and equatorial regions will remain substantially the same; but if from any cause the polar shall preponderate, then a change in polarity will ensue. Such, without doubt, was the case when the tropical elephants were encased in the icebergs of Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen.

Mountains of ice are continually forming within the arctics. The heat of summer cannot reach them; but century after century, and age after age, the accumulation goes on, adding to the polar density. Some disturbing element as an earthquake shock convulsing the globe, a volcanic eruption and upheaval,

or the addition of some fragmentary planet or wandering body lost in space, which has been attracted from its orbit by its nearness to our earth, falls upon it, the equipoise is lost, and the waters of the ocean, seeking their plane, roll over their rocky bounds, engulf continents, and sweep away every vestige of aspiring man save the few favorable locations which accidentally escape the *general deluge* and the submergence of continents.

Such has been, such will be again and again the fate of the globe. Man beholds the traces of his labors all around him, finds everywhere, even deep down in the bowels of the earth, evidences of his great antiquity, and looks upon all as stable and enduring. He inquires of the pyramids, ascends their summits, wanders through their interior labyrinthian passages, and seeks to find the motives for their construction. He deciphers the inscriptions on their walls, and is astonished with the power and wisdom of those who made them. He finds their builders were interlopers from some other country, and at a very remote age. Human records fail to give the origin of these people, or the country from which they came. The antiquarian lends his aid. He finds the mounds and tumuli of America identical in general form, and evidently constructed for the same purpose, with those covering the vast *steppes* of Asia. The mounds are traced down the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, and a feeble idea of their magnitude is learned by exploring the ruined temple of Belus—the wonderful tower of Babel, of biblical story—on the site of ancient Babylon. As we follow the nomadic builders of those structures we overtake them in the valley of the Nile, driving out the native blacks, as they had already done in Asia, setting up a new civilization peculiarly their own, and erecting their mounds, towers and pyramids, each step of their progress marking an improvement on the preceding, the general idea and purpose of which their remote ancestors carried out with them from a continent which was gradually submerged, the inhabitants retiring before the incoming ocean. During the long periods of their journeyings, resting for centuries by the way, and again advancing, they reached that region, foreigners on a foreign shore, where we first find them at the commencement of the historic age, making aggressive inroads upon the native populations of Asia and Africa.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)