

Let us now reflect that this legendary evidence cannot be thrown out of court. It must have weight with the world's intelligent jury, for as the investigator and sifter of traditions goes back into the darkness of antiquity, he sees more plainly the meaning of these fossils of thought-strata. Men may call these traditions the twaddle of the infant race, but that cannot crush nor impeach their evidence. They affirm, and will affirm till an incredulous world is forced to admit that man saw the last remnants of the Earth's Ring System. This, we claim, will be the last and irrevocable verdict of the court now sitting on this case. The result of this verdict must be the overthrow of long-established opinions in almost every field of thought, but the old-school geology will be one of its more hapless victims. For if man saw the last falling remnants of an annular system, the race lived for unknown centuries under a Jupiter-like canopy, and such canopies are all-competent to make all the warmer ages the world ever saw, and their name is legion. If they made the warm ages, their polar fall made all the *Ice Ages*. If they made these they were the most competent world-wreckers and strata-formers of the whole geologic past.

We look back on the confines of Azoic time, then, and see some adequate cause for the close of the Cambrian age. We see an ocean has so *changed* its waters as to nurse the rudimental forms of life. That oceanic change speaks of a vast addition of water, and thus a polar downfall comes to view away back in the midnight past. But this is not all. Even there we see the wreck of continents, which an ice age is most competent to effect, and a polar downfall is again affirmed. From that time forward we see a constant progression of ages, and vainly we look for an adequate cause if we stop the testimony of rings. The oceans change again and again, and every change means additions, and additions mean polar snows and climatic change and the glaciers' march. We see, too, the climatic changes and the ice-god's track. Not once, nor twice, but all through the ages. We ask the reader to find, if possible, a *cause* for this march of ages, if we are to put the earth's rolling canopies