

ments occur in a rigid body; and if it were once fluid within, but had now become rigid, at what period did oscillation cease? One of their best arguments was urged by a Canadian geologist, who had been at a place on the St. Lawrence called Bic, where there were cliffs of conglomerated sea-beach gravel. Within the larger stones of this conglomerate were smaller ones, which when fractured showed still other pebbles inclosed in their substance. Four times, within a recent period, it thus appeared, this beach had been compacted of the same materials, in the same place; four times elevated and four times depressed. A mammoth found there in an old sea beach, thirty feet above the present one, showed that the time of elevation was either still in progress or had quite recently come to an end. Further, it was shown that earthquake tremors were still frequent, that there were from thirty to fifty of such shakings of the earth each day, in one country or another, and this proved that if the earth was a corpse, it was, in slang phrase, a lively one.

To the writer, it seemed that those who thought the earth contained a liquid interior under a moderately thick crust had the best of the argument, but that none had touched the real cause of the great movement we were witnessing: viz., the local cooling of a portion of the heated mass under that crust. The polar ocean current, flowing from Greenland southward along the coast; the effects of the clearing of the forests during the previous 100 years; the general translucency of our air, which would easily permit local radiation into space—these and other circumstances might easily cause more rapid cooling and greater contraction on and under the American seaboard than elsewhere in the world. The fluidity of the interior could hardly be like that of water, and the transference of heat would probably be less easily and rapidly accomplished than in the case of water in a cistern. There-

fore it was credible that a thousand miles of surface — only four per cent. of the earth's circumference—might be affected by the shrinking of the core immediately underlying it, without disturbing the remainder of the planet, which would of course tend to wrinkle the envelope, on which we all exist. This small change of form might even be the cause of the slight periodical changes of latitude which had been lately noticed as a consequence of the difference between the polar axis and axis of gravity.

Small comfort we had, then, from the meeting. A report was drawn up, but the printing of it was, as usual, delayed, and was ultimately abandoned. The truth was in this crisis clearly manifested to us all, that the system, which had grown up during the last fifty years, of teaching people at the cost of states or municipalities, had brought into existence a class who professed science that they might live by it, instead of living as scientific men of old were wont to do, that they might advance the sum of human knowledge. Molière's phrase might be travestied "Serve Science, to live; do not live to serve Science." The speech of the people shewed they had a perception of the change, for they called these professors "scientists," a new coinage which seemed to imply limited knowledge, and which, though it befitted the numerous salaried teachers in educational institutions, would belittle such great men as Herschel, Galileo, Franklin, Watt, if applied to them.

These people, meeting at Washington, spent the time in acrimonious disputes. Before adjourning they composed them, outwardly, and passed resolutions highly complimentary to each other, but, as to the cause of our troubles, they came to no understanding, and as to the probable duration and scope of the change which was in progress they told us nothing (following the advice of a well known writer who counselled his friend "not to prophesy unless he knew"). Measures for