

adverse current, melted away. A channel now marks the place it once occupied.

As in the case of this small island land building reached its culmination and declined. So in the case of the main island. Brought into existence by the current its maintenance would depend upon the favorable condition of the current.

But when the great Bank of Newfoundland reached such dimensions that it interrupted and divided the polar current, sending one portion southward, the other on its western way, as a reduced and sluggish stream, the effect becomes at once visible. All the western eddies or currents would be altered, the swirl that so aided in the formation of the island so weakened that during storms it would be converted into a confused erratic current, which, gnawing at the foot of the embankment, would topple great masses of its sand cliffs into the waves, as recorded from time to time by eye-witnesses. In this manner the forces that called this island into existence may now, under changed conditions, be hastening its destruction.

The first theory then is one supported by actual observation, and may be a prominent one in future investigations.

I now turn to the second theory, which has for its subject the result of those great forces exhibited during the ice age or glacial period.

That such a period did exist is beyond all controversy, although the condition of that period is still a matter of dispute among geologists.

I will epitomize two of the most popular theories: 1st, that of Lyell, Dawson and others, who suppose a general subsidence took place bringing down each part of the land successively to the level of the water.

Large islands and bergs of floating ice came from the north which, as they grounded on the coast or on shoals, pushed along all loose material of sand and gravel and broke off all angular and projecting points of rocks and where fragments of hard stone were frozen into the lower surface scooped out grooves into the sub-adjacent solid strata.

After the surface of the rocks had been smoothed and grated