

to Queenston heights, required a period of over thirty thousand years for its excavation. Or that in certain fluviatile beds, numerous specimens of the Mastodon-Giganteus have been found, on the shores of lake Ontario, one at a great depth in Burlington heights, Hamilton, and one in the old river bed on Goat Island; and that these individuals must have lived and flourished (says Sir Charles Lyell in his "Age of deposits in North America,") previous to the gradual excavation of that deep long chasm, for this ravine is not only post glacial but also posterior in date to the mastodon bearing beds. Or, again, if the depression of the fern forests, which now form the coal beds of Nova Scotia took place at the rate of four feet in a century, there were required a period of 375,000 years for their completion to their present depth. Or, as a forest in a thousand years can scarce produce more than two or three feet of vegetable soil, the dirt beds are the work of hundreds of centuries. Or, if it tells us that the delta of the Mississippi could only have been formed in many tens of thousands of years (estimated by Sir Charles Lyell at 100,000) and that four successive Cyprus forests lay buried in its depths, and yet that it is only as a work of yesterday, compared to the inland terraces of the Mississippi river. That skeletons have

been disintombed in this same Delta to which Dr. Dowler assigns an antiquity of 40,000 years at least; or if, as Sir Charles Lyell says it he admitted that the human remains discovered at Natchez in connection with those of the Mastodon and Megalonyx—were found in their primitive bed—then a race of human beings must have occupied that country more than a thousand centuries ago. Enough however is known to prove that all our conceptions of the age of the earth and man's antiquity thereon, require remodeling and a careful reconsideration, while to many of us, who with difficulty shake off our patristic chronology, such statements appear extraordinary; and yet, they are the careful deductions the most learned and profound geologists have formed from their readings of the book of nature.

Who, then, will say that sufficient time has not elapsed for a numerous people to have penetrated the western shores of America, to have pressed forward to be a mighty nation, extending their civilization all across our continent, and to have been driven into forts and finally exterminated by those warlike savages, the red Indians, swooping down upon them from the North West? Or that Shelley was not partly right, when he penned that bold, but beautiful line, "Thou canst not find one spot whereon no city stood."