

of publication\* which has worked a change in the scientific world; formerly unwilling, now it is ready to accept these facts. Arthur Wallace, returning from a recent visit to the Pacific Coast, writes, regarding these finds of human remains in the pliocene tertiary river valleys of the Pacific Coast, that so far from being improbable, and strange, the non-existence of such remains in the pliocene period would be far more remarkable, improbable and strange, in the light of to-day.

For further information on the pre-glacial drainage of Lake Ontario I refer you to the observations of J. W. Spencer, formerly of Hamilton, and of the Geological Survey of Canada, published by the Philosophical Society of Washington, 1881. Mr. Spencer has presented many facts that are interesting on the pliocene erosion, or former valley of the lakes, in the region within reach from Hamilton; and also on the connection of the valleys of the Mississippi region where he is at present located.

It remains for me to trace a little further, and to review the facts regarding the pleistocene period, not of erosions or deep cut valleys, but of flood, and filling up of the ancient valleys; of terraces, and of plains to which we owe so much that is beautiful in the wide "level and rolling" expanse which is the paradise of the Canadian farmer. The subject goes beyond my capacity; the poet and the artist must do justice to this favored land of lakes, of rich agricultural soil, and of maple forest, that was only yesterday the bottom of a shallow sea. I have seen many countries, and frankly, I do not believe that nature—intent on rearing a vigorous race—in all the world has given its children another like it.

Probably a majority of the persons present who have followed the line of facts presented, will have drawn their own conclusions, in advance of what I shall say. If my facts are to be trusted, the evidence seems pretty conclusive that the sea penetrated into, and occupied the valley of the great lakes for a time at least during the pleistocene epoch. It is not my business or purpose at present to account for the absence of marine fossils in the valley of the St. Lawrence above

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\*Whitney's Auriferous Gravels, in *Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology*, Cambridge, 1880.