

is certain that both agencies were largely employed in sculpturing the rock surface and fashioning the features of our landscape as we now see them.

In addition to the more active agents of disturbance just described, others which perform their work quite as effectually probably exist. These are the atmosphere, rains, frosts, winds and the wash and wear of tides and seas. The degrading action of rivers in motion, by which immense quantities of material are removed and carried down and deposited at their mouths, as in the case of the Mississippi, the Nile, and nearer home, the St. Lawrence, is well known, and from these sources an estimate has been made of the rate of degradation of our continents and the number of years which would elapse before these would be reduced to the present sea level should no further period of upheaval occur. Some idea of the immense force of excavation exercised by running waters can be formed by considering the great canons of the Colorado, where huge chasms thousands of feet deep have been cut out by the action of streams, sometimes comparatively small, till now these present some of the most remarkable geological phenomena in the world. It is probable also that the great rock cliffs about this city owe their origin to a great extent to the wearing action of the rivers in this vicinity.

With the modified conditions of climate which succeeded the glacial period, the conditions of life as we now find it began or were resumed. Evidences of the presence of the human race are visible at the close of that period and even in the interglacial time, while some observers contend that human remains have been obtained as far back as the Miocene Tertiary. But with this phase of the subject we have not time sufficient to deal. Gradually the slowly moving fingers of time have fashioned and rounded our hill tops, have carved out the water courses and hewn the basins of our lakes. The action of sun, frost and rain have softened the hard sterile rock and produced the soil necessary for the cultivation of those things required for man's existence. Many if not all of the geological agencies which have been so potent in past ages are in active operation today, though possibly their action is not so marked as under the peculiar conditions of earlier geological times, but they are going forward all the same. The gradual