

portant to agriculture and geology, is the natural order or arrangement in which the stratified rocks occur. Thus, if Medina, Clinton and Niagara of the above diagram represent three different kinds of rock—a limestone, for example, a sandstone, and a shale, lying over each other in the order here represented, then in whatever part of the world these rocks are met with, they will always be found in the same position.

The further fact that stratified rocks are remarkably constant in general mineral composition, renders this knowledge of the order of relative superposition still more valuable to the agriculturist. Many different strata are known to geologists to occur on various parts of the earth's surface, each retaining its own place in the series. Most of these beds also, when they decay or are worn down, produce soils possessed of some peculiarity by which their general agricultural capabilities are more or less affected.

In the same countries or districts, on the surface of which divisions of the strata are seen to succeed each other very closely, the character of the surface soil and its agricultural capabilities are also seen to change as we pass from the rocks of one epoch to those of another. This variation is very pronounced in the more southerly part of the United States, particularly those which lie along the Atlantic border. Along the sea shore the soil is low and swampy and very fertile; further inland the surface gradually rises above the sea level, becomes firmer and drier, and supports quite a different type of growth from that observed along the shore. Tobacco and sugar are staple crops on this higher land. Some miles farther in

