

pressure of their own bulk. When leaves, stumps of trees, etc., are found in a delta several feet below the sea level, subsidence by a downward movement of the earth's crust is usually invoked as a cause. It is forgotten that the weight of the upper strata of the delta has consolidated the lower, and gradually pressed them down. We know that a dirt bed in the older strata is but a line, while existing dirt beds are many inches or even feet in thickness. Sand becomes sandstone by pressure, but a hundred feet of sand will by no means form a hundred feet of sandstone. The alternations between fresh water and marine strata, the changes from land to shallow lake or sea, which marked the age of the coal-measures and caused the production of coal, need not have been, and probably were not, caused by the alternate rising and sinking of the actual crust of the earth. It is far more likely that they were produced by the settlement or consolidation of the strata themselves. Regularity of settlement would depend on regularity of deposition, which was impossible from the nature of the case. The deposition of vegetable material and the formation of coal were dwelt upon.—Prof. Heilprin remarked that geologists regarded the alternation of coal and dirt beds as indicating recurrent periods of stability, rather than alternating depression and elevation. The stability of the ocean bed and the formation of deltas were considered.—Mr. Jos. Willcox described the effects of glacial action as observed by him north of the St. Lawrence. The farther north we proceed, the less soil would be found on the rocks, depending on the lessened amount of moraine deposited by the glacier as it retreated toward the pole. The scorings on the rocks in the region visited by him were from the northeast to the southwest. He believed that the oldest or Laurentian rocks were at one time covered with sedimentary deposits which had been worn away by glacial action. In some places patches of such deposits containing fossils were yet to be found.—Prof. Heilprin believed that the truth was yet to be ascertained regarding the direction of glacial movement in Labrador. He was inclined to believe that glacial action started below the great circumpolar ice-sheet, and proceeded both south and north from the point of departure. He referred to his communications made some years ago, in which he objected to the belief that glacial action, as we know it, was owing to movements of a large body of ice from the north pole. The results of the most recent arctic investigations on the condensation of moisture and the existence of a cloud limit were given.

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