

earth is as low as 70° below zero on Fahrenheit's scale. The laws of heat show, therefore, that the process of refrigeration must be now going on, and however little heat now escapes, it increases as we run backward through past ages, until we reach a period when it must have been great enough to have melted all known substances. And that such a state of things once existed, the character of the rocks demonstrates. For it is agreed on all hands that all the unstratified formations were once melted. Almost equally unanimous is the opinion that the stratified rocks, whether crystalline or sedimentary, were derived chiefly by abrasion from the unstratified. The spheroidal figure of the earth, exactly such as would be taken by a fluid globe revolving with the velocity of the earth, confirms this conclusion. And so do the facts as to the tropical and ultra-tropical character of the organic remains in the older rocks in high latitudes. Original fluidity and subsequent refrigeration are seemingly the only theory that will explain the elevation and subsidence of continents and mountain ranges. Moreover, the slow passage of worlds from a liquid and even a gaseous to a solid state, seems to be a law of the material universe. So that really the evidence appears to be overwhelming, to prove the early igneous fluidity of the earth. And scientific men will not long hesitate, if some of them now do, to place this among the demonstrated verities of philosophy, as the basis of reasoning in physics and in religion.

But after all, probably the history of the remains of animals and plants, found buried hundreds and thousands of feet deep in the rocks, and often converted into stone, is generally regarded as the most interesting part of geology. In Great Britain the rocks containing these relics are from ten to eleven miles thick, and in this country much thicker. Not less than 30,000 species of animals and plants have already