A bowlder is a loose block of stone larger than a pebble, and either rounded or angular.

Drift is a mixture of abraded materials—bowlders, gravel, and sand, blended confusedly together, and driven mechanically forward by some force behind. Yet in some places there are marks of stratification or lamination, as if water had been concerned in the work of deposition.

Drift is distinguished from the Tertiary by lying always above it; and by the peculiarities of the organic remains; and from modified drift, by always lying beneath it, and being less comminuted.

Modified drift is not only stratified and laminated, but sorted also; the size of the fragments thus selected depending upon the force of the current that did the work. Drift is usually not sorted; sometimes it is so in particular places.

It is difficult to draw the precise line between drift and unmodified drift, because they blend into each other. Modified drift is always stratified, while the drift is generally a heterogenous mixture without arrangement, yet large bowlders are sometimes imbedded in sand, as if there were sometimes a combination of forces in accumulating the same pile.

The bowlders so characteristic of drift are sometimes seen insulated upon other rocks, and so equally poised that a small force will make them oscillate, though weighing many tons. They are called *Rocking Stones.*

Fig. 59 represents a rocking stone in Fall River, Massachusetts, poised upon

Fig. 58.

Rocking Stone, Barre, Massachusetts.

granite, and weighing 160 tons. Fig. 58 shows another, a double one, in Barre, Massachusetts.

Many of the most valuable of the precious stones and metals are found in drift; such as the diamond, the sapphire, the topaz,