into the pitcher did on a small one. Nor must it be forgotten, that though *creation* and *annihilation* are terms which may seem suggestive of the fanciful and the extravagant, there are phenomena exceedingly common in nature which, for all the purposes of my argument, would have exactly the effect of the things which these terms signify. In intense cold, the mercury in a thermometer is confined to the bulb of the instrument; plunged into boiling water, it straightway rises 212 degrees in the tube; and, when a second time subjected to the intense cold, it sinks again into the bulb as at first. So far as mere bulk is concerned, there takes place what is analogous to a creation and annihilation of the quantity of mercury in the tube. Again, if a rod of lead a mile in length be raised in temperature from the freezing point to the point at which water boils, it lengthens rather more than five yards;—what is equal to a creation of five yards of lead-rod has been effected. Cooled down again, however, the five yards are annihilated. A rod of flint-glass of the same length, raised to the same temperature, would stretch out only four feet two inches and rather more than seven lines. All the metals—even platinum—expand more than glass; but were there some deeplying stratum, five miles in thickness, of that portion of the earth's crust on which Great Britain rests, to be heated 212 degrees above its present temperature, it would at even this comparatively low rate of expansion elevate the island more than twenty feet higher than now over the existing sea-level, —a height fully equal to that of by far the best marked of our ancient coast lines. And if this increase in temperature took place, not in a stratum of the earth's crust *five* miles in thickness, underlying Great Britain, but in a stratum *twenty* miles in thickness, underlying one-fourth the area of the bed of the ocean, the effect would of course be of a reverse character. This *creation* of land at the bottom of the sea would raise the ocean level nearly twenty feet all over the