Although our positive knowledge of the vegetation of the period immediately preceding the advent of the reign of ice is confessedly meagre, it is certain that all the facts in our possession point to close specific correspondence with the modern vegetation of the same regions, modified, certainly, by the fact that even in the latest Tertiary the climate was considerably warmer than in the same latitudes at the present day.

All the luxuriant vegetation which flourished at the close of the Tertiary was undoubtedly swept off by the events which characterized the reign of ice, and, as has been already stated, the ruins of this vegetation were entombed in the rocky *débris* created by the moving glacier. The drift deposits became the vast granary in which Nature preserved her store of seeds through the long rigors of a geological winter.

But what evidences have we that the seeds of plants are capable of retaining their vitality through a geological period?

The ordinary process of destruction of vegetable tissues is merely an oxydation of the carbon and hydrogen entering into their constitution. I seriously doubt whether the requisite conditions for such oxydation exist at considerable depths in the soil. Mr. Jabez Hayden, of Windsor Locks, Connecticut, has a small quantity of corn, which is part of a bushel or more uncovered by the breaking away of the banks of the Connecticut River, a little above the mouth of the Farmington, not many years since. It probably dates back prior to the settlement of Windsor in 1635. The kernels had been charred and buried below the ordinary depths of cultivation (*Stiles's Hist. Ancient Windsor*, p. 85).

It is stated that the piles sustaining the "London Bridge" have been driven five hundred years, and are still compar-