the sediments might by degrees get into a condition to get coloured red in the manner previously mentioned. We have a case in point in an old inland sheet of water, as shown by the Red Marls of the extinct Miocene lakes of Auvergne in Central France.

The uniformity of action here sketched may present a difficulty to some geologists, seeing that on the borders of South Wales the Upper Old Red Sandstone, over a large space, overlaps the lower strata till they lie directly on Silurian rocks, and the same is the case in parts of Scotland. But on consideration these circumstances do not present any real difficulty. If the great hollow in which the Dead Sea lies, were gradually to get filled with fresh water, and the whole by degrees became silted up, 1,300 feet of strata would be added above the level of the present surface, and the upper strata all round would overlap the lower, apparently much as the Old Red Sandstone strata do in Wales and the adjoining counties. If the Caspian and other parts of the Asiatic area of inland drainage got filled with fresh water, the same general results would ensue.

Like the recurrent circumstances that have attended the rise and falls of empires through all historical time, so geological history has often more or less repeated itself, somewhere or other on the surface of the earth; and in this modern phase of Asiatic physical geography, it seems to me that we may have, so far as it has gone, a repetition of events, which, with minor variations, have happened again and again, in old-world geological epochs, the history of which I shall by-and-by have to record. The farther off geological records recede, like inscriptions in an unknown tongue, the more difficult are they to decipher; the nearer they come to our own day, they are often more easy to read.