

the same features as when the ice-grinding stopped. In other quarries, where the covering is loose, the limestone is eroded into pits, swallow-holes, and crevices, many feet in thickness being often dissolved away altogether. For a long time I have been on the outlook to find a section that would give the number of feet destroyed by sub-aërial erosion since glacial action ceased, but failed until lately. It was always easy enough to know how many feet had been removed as a whole, but there was no data to show where glacial action had stopped, and sub-aërial erosion had commenced. However, a section has been laid open that gives a close approximation.

In the upper half of this limestone various bands of nodular flint occur, three of which bands are prominent; and are divided from each other by five feet of intervening limestone, and lesser flint bands. In one section, where about 20 feet of limestone had been removed by erosion, the three flint bands were found nearly entire, while the limestone was gone. It was therefore clear that all of it, from, at least, the upper flint band, had been destroyed by such sub-aërial erosion since glacial action stopped—the minimum quantity eroded cannot be less than twelve feet, probably as much as fifteen feet.

Having measured the rate of erosion for thirty years, by taking the limestone surface with a plastic substance, and replacing the loss through erosion with water, and thus calculating the loss, I find from this, that it is being denuded at the rate of $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch in fifty years, or one foot in 9600 years. If this be anything approaching an average, it would take 115,000 years to denude twelve feet, or 144,000 to reduce fifteen feet, the probable quantity destroyed.

This gives an approximation of the time that has passed away since glacial action stopped, and sub-aërial erosion commenced. Still a considerable period may have been taken up in denuding clay left by the ice; but on this I do not enter, farther than to say that the section being on a very small plateau, on a water-shed, and I believe that very little Boulder-clay would be left upon it, and that sub-aërial erosion would commence shortly after glaciation had stopped.

ROBERT CRAIG.

LANGSIDE, BEITH, *Sept. 4th*, 1878.

THE DIVINING ROD.

SIR,—The following extract from the *Marlborough Times* of Aug. 24th should possess great interest for readers of the *GEOL. MAG.*

LONDON, *6th Sept.*, 1878.

W. H. PENNING.

SEARCH FOR WATER.—A person from Colerne, near Bath, who professes to have the gift of divining where a spring of water is to be found by means of a small piece of white thorn of this year's growth in the shape of a V, was at Wootton Bassett the other day and operated on Mr. Hart's premises, pointing out a site for another well for his brewery—even the depth at which water would be likely to be found being designated by him. It is said that those who possess this quality are extremely few. Two or three years since a person named Weare resided in the town who used the divining rod, and who had a most implicit and sincere belief in his powers, for which he could not account, and really to a looker on the rod appeared to move quite independently of him and in fact to be beyond his control. The operator on this recent occasion stated, we believe, that he had been successful in discovering springs by this means on more than two hundred occasions without a single failure. (1)