

racess are found to be "entirely distinct," and "so unlike that they could not have been contemporaneous" (p. 121).²⁷

5. The great depth and size of numerous canyons and gorges in the world are a record of periods of erosional activity many times longer than the history of man on the earth. This evidence is made all the more convincing when we take note of the fact that many of these canyons were eroded by rivers into hard, igneous (non-sedimentary) rock. Three of the examples Hitchcock cites are: (a) "Near the source of the Missouri River are what are called the Gates of the Rocky Mountains, where there is a gorge six miles long and twelve hundred feet deep." (b) "Similar cuts occur on the Columbia River, hundreds of feet deep, through the hard trap rock, for hundreds of miles...." (c) "On the Potomac, ten miles west of Washington, the Great Falls have worn back a passage sixty to sixty-five feet deep, four miles continuously--a greater work, considering the nature of the rock, than has been done at Niagara." (p. 57) In all these cases the erosion has been accomplished by rivers, and the rocks which were cut away were hard varieties of non-sedimentary, igneous formations.²⁸

In presenting his list of geologic reasons for accepting a great antiquity of the earth, Hitchcock does not evade the question of how these facts can be reconciled with the Bible. He recognizes mainly two workable methods, and points out that there is no necessity for us to decide which of the two is right, or to take a firm stand for either the one or the other, since neither does violence to the Scriptures. These two methods are essentially the "gap theory" of Thomas Chalmers, and the "day-age theory." He very fairly presents a list of advantages for each, though he does state his personal preference for the view of Chalmers (p. 63-67).

One of the lectures is entitled "The Noachian Deluge Compared with the Geological Deluges." In this the Biblical Flood is definitely accepted as a historical event, but the audience is reminded that the frequently stated idea of the complete breaking up or dissolving of the earth's surface during the Flood is incorrect. As evidence that this view is in error, the following is cited: "(the Scriptures) distinctly describe the waters of the deluge, as first rising over the land (including mountains) and then sinking back to their original position, with the same land...again emerging. Indeed, a part of the rivers proceeding out of the garden of Eden are the same as those now existing on the globe." (p. 116-120)

Hitchcock then gives numerous geologic evidences to show that most of the sedimentary deposits of the earth were, of necessity, deposited long before the Noachian Deluge. Included are references to several of the types of existing sedimentary deposits and other geologic formations which could not have been produced by flood waters, or as a result of a flood. Also, he cites the fact that no scientific observations have positively identified strata which were produced by the Flood of the Bible. (p. 122-126)