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SEARCHING FOR A MISSING LINK.

Not For Age-like Man This Time, But For Facts to Prove Sayings Recorded in the Scriptures.

To find conclusive evidence that the deluge was universal, the discoverer of facts which will prove that the waters covered "the face of the earth," as recorded in the Scriptures, is the subject of a journey which a distinguished American geologist, the Rev. George Frederick Wright, is making over the "Roof of the World," the Central Asian plateau.

The journey is full of peril and hardship, but Dr. Wright, who has faced the dangers of Arctic exploration and who has led hazardous expeditions over the glaciers of Alaska, is no stranger to such things. Though sixty-four years old he is strong and vigorous. On the present expedition he is accompanied by his son, Frederick B. Wright, recently graduated from Yale college. Both father and son were prisoners in the British legation during the siege of Peking. After the rescue of the legation they went to Vladivostok and thence over the Trans-Siberian road to Lake Baikal, in the great Siberian plateau.

The Ararat range in Southwestern Asia, where Biblical story says the Ark of Noah found a resting place, will be explored by Dr. Wright. In these highlands, which are covered with "loess," or unstratified glacial mud left by receding water, Dr. Wright hopes to find remains of men and animals left there before the flood. If Dr. Wright discovers antediluvian remains in Asia, the last link in a chain of facts which tend to prove that the globe was at one time flooded will be supplied. Geologists admit that America and Europe were once under water. It has been known for years that the greater part of Africa was once covered by the sea, but it remains to be shown that Asia, too, was once submerged.

AN IMPORTANT MISSION. Within the last twenty years the views of scientific men as to the deluge have been reversed. Prestwich, the English geologist, was the first to find evidences of a deluge in Europe. Sir J. William Dawson has supported the universal deluge theory.

In this country Dr. Wright has made investigations which seem to show that North America was once under water. Deposits of marine products and marine fossils have been found by Dr. Wright on our highest mountains, while the thin deposit of "loess," or inundation mud, that covers the major portion of the Rocky Mountain plateau is full of marine fossils, shells, and evidences of inundation.



Mr. Frederick B. Wright, son of the explorer.

Dr. Wright has spent his life in seeking to harmonize science and the Biblical story of the creation. He is a professor in Oberlin Theological Seminary and professor of "The Relations of Religion and Science" at Andover. For several years he was an assistant on the United States Geological Survey.

The present expedition is the greatest undertaking of his life. All the expenses will be borne by Dr. Wright himself. When last heard from, the Doctor was setting out for Lake Baikal which is 200 miles from the Siberian railroad line. The journey to the lake, 2,500 feet above the sea level, will be made in Mongolian camel carts. Dr. Wright's only European companion will be his son. They carry tools to dig into the deposits of "loess."

Scientists say that an event so stupendous as the deluge could not have happened without leaving permanent evidences behind. It is believed, however, that the effects have been modified, and even obscured, by subsequent changes. It is not only difficult to discover evidences of the deluge, but difficult to separate records of the deluge from the records of the earlier periods, such as the glacial, or later records left by subsequent inundations.

The Scripture states that the water covered "all the high hills," and there are evidences of this in four continents. The water is said to have risen 15 cubits, or 23 feet, above the highest mountain. Scientists are asking where are the materials drifted up by the deluge, the remains of the millions of men and animals that perished by it. During the 150 days that followed the rise of the waters the matter lifted by the flood settled, the heavier materials first, then finer gravel, sand, and finally mud fell like a mantle. But as the waters receded into the ocean beds much of this mud in the courses of the currents was carried back into the ocean. Geologists are perplexed over the depths of the deposits.

It is quite likely that Dr. Wright will find buried in the "loess" the weapons and tools used by men who lived before the flood, and for whose sake the Scripture says the world was drowned.

An intimate friend of Dr. Wright is the Rev. Daniel S. Gregory, editor of The Homeletic Review. Before starting on his expedition Dr. Wright confided to Dr. Gregory his plans.

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