foundations of the mountain rested, burying the whole mass deep in the
gulf thus created, is of course a subject of mere conjecture, and can never
be satisfactorily determined. The depth and solidity of the stratification
on either side of the chasm would seem, however, to favor the first
hypothesis.

The evidences of the action of water on rocks hundreds of feet above the
present level of the river-bed, and the masses of drift forming isolated
hills and alluvial banks, indicate lake-like repose in the country now
drained by the tributaries of the stream above the great gate in the
mountain barrier.

The Indian name of Minusak—meaning "the water is gone"—given by
the aborigines to the level country north of the Gap, and extending up the
river many miles, would seem to indicate some tradition confirming the
theory of a lake at some remote period of time.

The mass of matter thrown out from this chasm must have deluged the
whole country south of the "Gap" for many miles in extent; but we shall,
perhaps, never find a Herodotous or a Pausanias buried beneath the accumu-
lated debris, although some future Boucher de Perthes, delving deep in the
bowels of the earth for evidences of prehistoric man, may here find some
relic of the stone age, very like those now so plentifully found upon the
surface.

The two following paragraphs, giving an estimate of the probable amount
of matter thrown out of the opening forming the "Gap," etc., are extracts
from a letter written by the author of this book, some years ago, for the
New York Sun, portions of which were afterward published in a History of
Northampton and Monroe Counties:

Estimating the height of the mountain on either side at 1,000 feet, the
width of the space or distance between the mountains at half their height
to be 1,000 feet, the whole distance through at one mile, would give the
enormous amount of 8,452,600,000 cubic feet, a sufficiency of matter to over-
whelm a township of ordinary size to the depth of five feet.

Here there has been a conviction that must have shaken the earth to the
core of the earth, and the "elements to give signs that all was lost." But He
who governs the world and has all things at His command; He who holds
the globe by the might of His hand, can remove the mountains from their
foundations and bury them in the deep, and the great machinery of the
universe continue to move and lose none of its functions.

The wonderful phenomena of nature witnessed in every climate, setting
at defiance all human theories and human research, seem to exist only to
impress us with the majesty of omnipotence, and our own fallible insuffi-
ciency; and the great geological transformations that have taken place in
the primary condition of the earth's surface, and the constant mutations
still continuing, together with our own wasting lives, admonish us of the
instability of all sublunary things, and that ere long;

"Like the baseless fabric of this vision,
The cloud-capped towers, the gorgeous palaces,
The solemn temples, the great globe itself,
Yea, all which it inherit, shall dissolve,
And, like this unsubstantial pageant, faded,
Leave not a rack behind."

The Delaware Water Gap may have been so planned from creation. We
are told in the beautiful language of inspiration: that, "He putteth forth
His hand upon the rocks, He overturneth the mountains by the roots, He
cuteth our rivers among the rocks, and His eye seeth every precious thing."

**Origin of Delaware Water Gap**

The Delaware Water Gap is thirty miles above Easton, and is worth a
voyage across the Atlantic to see it. Various are the theoretical conjectures
as to the cause of this rent in the rocks—disarrangement of the rupic moun-
tain mass. It is a stupendous work, and the "rent" is chasmaticissimus.