the length of the interval, the diminution of the entire body of water, ~~brought down~~ or increase in the amount of detritus brought down. The lower terraces in a valley will naturally be widest, because an amount of material brought down during higher stages of water will have been directly precipitated, or spread out, forming a level floor at the bottom of the valley, and its erosion will take place only to an extent proportioned to the size of the usual stream.

The upper Columbia and its tributaries through the whole route of the expedition, presented this formation upon a scale of singular magnitude and variety of circumstance. It is probable that in this northern district where the winters are exceedingly cold, ice has played an important part upon these elevated lakes, but the surface of the country exhibits no evidence of its action subsequent to their drainage, and there are no appearances either of the former existence of fixed glaciers, or the transportation of boulders from a distance by moving bodies. In fact rocks out of place are of very rare occurrence considering the mountainous character of the country, and no where to a size or extent beyond the capacity of ordinary causes.

In leaving the Columbia to visit the ~~Chelan~~ ~~Wenatchee~~ lake, our route ascended one of those terraces