George Catlin's Geology

George Catlin, the noted Nineteenth Century painter of American Indians had a deep interest in geology which, in the late years of his life, was to lead him far astray. He wrote a strange little book, entitled *The Lifted and Subsided Rocks of America*, that was published by Trubner & Co. of London in 1870. In that work Catlin hypothesized that under the great mountain chains of North and South America there existed subterranean vaults, through which tumultuous rivers ran, debouched in the Gulf of Mexico, and intermingled to become the Gulf Stream. The fury of this torrent flung American Indians, clinging to driftwood and rafts, as far as the coasts of Europe.

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