“The ice-belt which I still see along the steep bank of the Assabet is now some three weeks old “,” and though it was then six or eight inches think “,” it is now only two or three “,” or much less “,” in many places nearly wasted away “,” and those once horizontal tables are often fallen aslant “,” like shields pierced with many holes. [image] The belt “,” at first consisting of more or less blunt triangles projecting four or five feet from the bank “,” was at first “,” of course “,” perfectly horizontal and level (I see where dogs and foxes have run along on it for half a mile together) “,” but now “,” such is the flexibility of the ice “,” it is bent downward by its own weight thus: [image] or if you standing in front of it “,” it is a waving or undulating line instead of a level on “,” i.e. on its edge. [image] I see one table “,” where the ice is a little more than one inch thick “,” which is curved downward on the sides eighteen inches within a horizontal distance of two and a half feet “,” thus: [image] There is nothing like a crack at this bend.”

PE 14, pg. 446-447/ 9 November 1858-7 April 1859 / NNPM MA 1302:34 / T vol. # XXVIII / PDF # XVII / JXI

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