

Every year that a man of ordinary intelligence spends in the same section makes him better fitted to work in that district.

† Q. And the first year of a survey of that nature may be considered initiatory?—
Yes.

By Mr. Cameron :

Q. How long is it since any of your reports were published?—My last published report appeared in the volume for 1879-80, and related to the work of 1878-79.

By Mr. Baker :

Q. Is it customary for the officers in charge of a particular section of the Survey to keep duplicates of the reports sent in to the office?—I do not know whether it is customary or not, but it is not often done. I begin to write it out roughly, and in re-writing it, where there are pages that do not need to be re-written, I let them go into the report. I do not think that in my case I have re-written any report.

Q. Suppose that in the transmission of these valuable reports they should miscarry, would you have duplicates of them?—If I were to lose the last report, which has now been in the hands of the Director for some time, I would have to re-write it.

Q. But you have the material?—Yes; the field notes.

Q. Do you not consider that it would be wiser to keep duplicates of these reports?—Most certainly; but I do not think it is quite fair to ask an officer to re-write his report with his own hand; he has more important work to do.

Q. Is it a matter of frequent occurrence that the matter appertaining to a section of the Geological Survey is sent in to the Director in a crude form, by the officers for him to put in shape?—The Director should do so, if they were not able to write them themselves. In Sir William Logan's time, some of his best men, like Mr. Richardson and Mr. Lowe, who were competent explorers and geologists, but were not sufficiently educated to write their own reports, had their reports written for them by Sir William. Mr. Richardson used to complain, when Dr. Selwyn succeeded to the directorate, that he could not get his reports out, because Dr. Selwyn would not take the same pains as Sir William did.

Q. But still the precedent has been established in Sir William Logan's time, that these reports were sent in for him to revise and to see that they were published in proper shape?—That is one of the most important functions of the Director of the Survey, and now, with so much money to expend, I should think it would be the chief work.

Q. The editing, so to speak, of these reports, has been done in Sir William Logan's time, and consequently it is not a new departure for Dr. Selwyn to pursue the same course?—No; if he does pursue it, but I do not think he does. The material was given by Mr. Richardson into Sir William Logan's hands, who "licked it into shape," as he himself expressed it, correcting any inaccuracies of grammar and spelling, and perhaps of statement, which might occur.

Q. Do you consider that when you send in a report to the Director he should alter it in any shape or form beyond that of correcting grammatical or spelling errors, &c.?—No statements should be altered. I think a man who works in a district, if he is competent to work there, is more competent to judge of the correctness of his work than the Director, who has not been there, however efficient that Director may be. For instance, a report of Dr. Hunt's is published in the proceedings of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, and Prof. Leslie, in a note, states that he does not agree with the conclusions arrived at by Dr. Hunt, still he publishes the report in the form in which it is given by Dr. Hunt. He says there are differences of opinion; these are not my opinions, but they are Dr. Hunt's.

Q. You would be equally satisfied, with regard to your report, if that course were pursued in your case? You would not like to see your opinions eliminated from the report, but would rather have your report sent in as it was, and allow the Director to make any additions to it he pleased? That would be the correct thing to do?—Yes; I think so. In some points, a man of great ability and knowledge, perhaps superior knowledge of them to the man who has been working in a certain district,