

known in Europe of rocks of the same age. These are not primary rocks. They have been called so. But here in Canada you have the merit of having first pointed out to the world that they are stratified rocks, that they have been laid down by water, that they shew beds of lime and sandstone laid down by water, but modified by subsequent changes. (Applause.) The knowledge of this, of the age of these rocks, of their stratified formation, and of their valuable minerals, is due to Canadian research. You have demonstrated, moreover, the stratification of another set of rocks, called here the Huronian, which had always formerly been thought to belong to the supposed primary chaotic mass. You have then your Laurentian and Huronian rocks, lying at the foundation of your geology, as monuments to your attainments in geological science. (Applause.) Then, with reference to the fossiliferous rocks, you have already done so much, that I cannot attempt to go over the ground. In the Trenton limestones, a Canadian has brought to light those beautiful stone lilies which grow in groups or forests beneath the sea. Your Anticosti too has furnished us with new light in geology. The gap between the Upper and Lower Silurian groups which we have been endeavouring in vain to fill up, you have extended to many hundreds of feet, teeming with the remains of ancient life. Again, it just now occurs to me that while we in the United States have been talking of fucoids, and trying to give names to fragments of plants that we found stranded among our *strata*, it is you who have set us right. One of your number, the President of this Society, found us drifting out to sea upon sea-weeds, and has brought us back, shewing that we had been dealing merely with rootlets of a plant which belongs to the Devonian period in all its course from its beginning to its end. This is another point in which in Canada you are far in advance of other geologists. (Applause.) I do not wish to depreciate what has been done by my friends among ourselves on the other side, but these are certainly most encouraging steps which have been taken here in the progress of geological investigation—and those I have mentioned are not all. If I had time I could particularize many more. If, for example, I turn to the economical results of your Survey—for we must go to the soil or to the rocks for our economic materials everywhere and always—then I feel bound to say that you have done more than all our naturalists put together. (Applause.) We have not in any of our collections such a variety of economic