

ing the area about Woodstock, represented by Gesner simply as clay slate or argillites, and differently marked from that of the similar belt south of the granite, is by Robb, and correctly, made of the same age as the latter. It is probable that in referring both of these great belts, which are more or less metalliferous, to the Cambrian system, Gesner and Robb were, upon the whole, more correct than the officers of the Geological Survey so many years later.

In Gesner's map a considerable belt of rock skirting the southern seaboard from Passamaquoddy Bay to Chignecto Bay, and now known to be Pre-Cambrian (Laurentian and Huronian), is referred to the Lower Silurian, or its supposed equivalent, the Graywacke System. This, undoubtedly the oldest group of rocks in the Province, and a part of the Acadian protaxis, is by Robb made still younger, or Upper Silurian, possibly through the knowledge of the occurrence of Upper Silurian shells in some of the areas, such as Passamaquoddy Bay, where they are to some extent associated with and overlies the beds of the older system; or, the fact that such Upper Silurian rocks had been shown by Jackson to occupy large areas along the coast of Maine, rendered it probable that the apparent extension of these in New Brunswick should be referable to the same horizon. The Upper Silurian rocks of Northern New Brunswick, not indicated in the incomplete map of Dr. Gesner, are by Dr. Robb clearly distinguished, the lines representing its southern margin showing a somewhat close approximation to their true position as determined by later investigation. On the north the border is made to exclude Temiscouata Lake, of which the greater part is really bordered by Silurian strata.

In this connection the following extract from a letter of Sir Wm. Dawson to Mr. S. W. Kain, in answer to certain enquiries of the latter, will be read with interest:

As stated in *Acadian Geology*, p. 502, the first fossil plant seen by me from the Devonian of southern New Brunswick was a Calamite (*C. radiatus* Brongt. *C. transitionis* Goept.), afterward illustrated by many specimens from the vicinity of St. John. This specimen Dr. Robb brought to Montreal, I think, at the time of the meeting of the American Association here in 1857. At the time these rocks near St. John were supposed to be Lower Silurian, and the Calamite showed that there must be newer beds there, though it was a species not found in the coal formation. I suggested at the time to Dr. Robb that on his return he should endeavour to ascertain if other fossil plants were present, and what portion of the slates and sandstone rocks near St. John contained them. This he proposed to do, but did not live to carry out his intentions, and the work fell into the hands of Messrs. Matthew and Hartt, by whom it was so successfully carried out. I did not know if Dr. Robb had any conference with