

All this plant theory, advanced with the utmost confidence, has no evidence whatever except the assertion of the author and his belief as to the imperfect character of the observations of his predecessors. The following extracts, kindly translated by our colleague Dr. Sommer, will serve to show his mode of treatment:—

"I was convinced of the inorganic nature of Eozoon, or at least of the fact that it could not be an animal. But the fine "canal systems" as Dr. Carpenter had named them, were the source of much anxious thought on my part, and this was necessarily augmented by the following consideration, of which I could not rid myself. "Gneiss is formed by water and therefore a sedimentary rock. Its layers of limestone must contain the first organic enclosures; for, life cannot begin with the silurian rocks." This is a hypothesis, but, like many others that are true, one of which I have not yet rid myself."

"It happened, then, that I had to go to Canada, in consequence of an invitation from the Canadian Government.\* I visited Dr. Dawson and thence went to Côte St. Pierre, Petit Nation, there I saw the stratified layers and obtained a great number of pieces of Eozoonic Limestone and of Eozoonic specimens. On my return I examined the material. The result of my examinations I publish here: *the Limestone of the Laurentian Gneiss of Canada, the oldest sedimentary strata of our earth, contains a plant organization belonging to the family of the Algae.*"

"Till now there have been but few new species established different from the modern; but, I am persuaded, that by continual researches, the number will soon be increased. All these plants, I found enclosed in the true "Eozoic Rock," which I shall henceforth call *Eophyllic Limestone*. I shall draw attention to the words that my honorable friend Dr. Dawson also used: "all is not Eozoon!" †

Then follows a description, condensed from Canadian reports, of the Laurentian formation, after which occur the following statements:—

"It is incomprehensible that on looking upon this form, a plant did not occur to the mind at once. It can only be explained thus: that, at first, when such pieces were not yet discovered, they were so prepossessed by the idea of Foraminifera, that it pervaded all their investigations; while the opponents, (myself included) arrived at once at the obvious conclusion; namely that not being animal it was therefore mineral."

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\* Dr. Hahn seems to have been employed on some mission connected with emigration from Germany.

† This, I suppose, refers to the fact that I warned Dr. H. that he would find the greater part of the Laurentian limestone to be destitute of distinguishable Eozoon.