

and other magnesian rocks. These would naturally fall into the place assigned to them, if the age attributed to the second series be admitted, otherwise they come into the period of the Silurian, or some newer formation, in an altered condition. I do not know that fossils have been found in these rocks, within the limits of Canada at least, but if they are really of Cambrian age, the richness of this fauna elsewhere in N. E. America would warrant the hope that the age assigned to them may be indicated by fossils, while, if like some similar beds to the southward, they hold Silurian species, these also must in some places be recognizable; so that if they finally fail to afford fossil remains or yield Lower Cambrian species, this, with their mineral character and apparent distribution, would sustain Mr. Selwyn's view; while, on the other hand, the discovery of a few distinctive Silurian forms might suffice to overturn it.

It would appear that the third and second series of Mr. Selwyn, above mentioned, are the same with the rocks which in Hitchcock's map of New Hampshire are named Montalban and Huronian. The former term has however been applied by Dr. Hunt to a series newer than the Huronian, and possibly of Lower Cambrian age, so that if it is correctly used by Hitchcock, his so-called Huronian may be in reality Upper Cambrian or Lower Silurian. It is to be deprecated as not conducive to correct conclusions, that terms of this kind should be used to represent merely mineral resemblances, irrespective of those evidences of geological age derived from stratigraphy and fossils. It is due here to Dr. Hunt to explain that he has for many years on independent grounds regarded the beds of Mr. Selwyn's second and third groups as, for the most part at least, Huronian in age, and a similar conclusion was also arrived at from comparison with the older formations of Scandinavia, by Mr. Macfarlane. Thus in one way or another all these gentlemen dissent from Sir William's conclusions, while also differing from each other, a sufficient evidence of the complicated character of the problem with which he had to deal, and whose ultimate solution may embrace elements of all the generalizations which have been put forth.

Some suggestions may at least be offered toward the solution of these questions which deserve the attention of those who have been occupied with them. The first is that we should accustom ourselves to the anticipation that contemporaneous palaeozoic