

that Longfellow sung in his description of the home of Evangeline:

In the Acad'ian land, on the shores of the Basin of Minas.  
Distant, secluded, still, the little village of Grand Pré  
Lay in the fruitful valley. Vast meadows stretched to  
the eastward,  
Giving the village its name, and pastures to flocks without number.

West and south there were fields of flax, and orchards  
and corn fields

Spreading afar and unfenced o'er the plain; and away  
to the northward

Blomidon rose, and the forests old, and aloft on the  
mountains,

Sea-fogs pitched their tents, and mists from the mighty  
Atlantic

Looked on the happy valley, but ne'er from their station  
descended.

But if Blomidon itself be visited it will be found that the rocks of which it is composed are very different from those of the valley which it overlooks. They are much harder, much darker in colour, often more or less crystalline, and not unfrequently broken by divisional joints into quadrangular or hexagonal columns similar to those which have determined the well known scenery of the Giants' Causeway, the Cave of Staffa or the Palisades of the Hudson. Like the latter they are in reality of volcanic origin and with the similar rocks extending southwesterly along the whole range of the North Mountains to Digby Gut and beyond the latter, through Digby Neck to Brier Island, they mark the site of a series of volcanic overflows, partly interstratified with the red sandstones and partly resting upon them. They often resemble the slags of a furnace and at many places are filled with cavities, the result of the expansion of steam or sulphurous vapors, the walls of which are lined with beautiful minerals, such as agates, amethysts, zeolites, etc., making the region a famous gathering ground for the mineralogist, made better by the action of the tides and frosts which from time to time loosen and drop large masses of rock from the precipitous face of the cliffs. Nothing, however, resembling a crater can be found. The beds rather represent what is known as a fissure eruption — the outwelling of igneous matter along an extended crack or fissure and the overspreading of this material on the adjacent formations. There were probably several of these fissures as indicated by ridges, now submerged, along the

trough of the Bay of Fundy, and again by their occurrence on Grand Manan, where they determine the well known scenery about the Northern Head, including the famous "Six Days of Creation," that of Dark Harbor, and again that



SOUTHERN CROSS, GRAND MANAN.

of the Southern Head, with its remarkable "Southern Cross." It will be remembered that throughout the whole of its history the Bay of Fundy region was one of instability and of profound subsidences, (witness the vast thickness and inclined altitude of the rocks in the Joggins section) as it was from pre-Cambrian time often the scene of volcanic outbreaks, and it would seem that not long after the close of the Coal era, in what is known as the Trias or New Red Sandstone era, such subsidences were again in progress, originating the sandstones of the Annapolis valley, but now, instead of yielding to the pressure thus determined and becoming thrown into folds, great cracks were developed along the bottom of the sinking trough, and through these welled up the lavas and volcanic materials which now constitute Blomidon and the range of the North Mountains.

The beds of this era are but slightly represented upon the mainland of New Brunswick, though some red sandstones believed to be of this age occur in the vicinity of St. Martins and elsewhere on the southern coast, but they are widely spread on Prince Edward Island, where, as in the Annapolis valley, the bright red sandstones by their decomposition have determined conditions of exuberant fertility.

Do we know anything of the life of this interesting era? Well, only a very little directly. A few fragments of fossil wood, related to the pines,