The stratified rocks associated with the serpentines are black, green, grey and purple slates, with, occasionally, conglomerates, and sometimes beds of hard quartzose sandstone. The diorites, with which they are intimately associated, frequently form great mountain masses, as at Orford, Ham, Thetford, etc., and in texture are both massive and concretionary, while in color they range from shades of green to brown.

The serpentines are in places penetrated by dykes and sometimes considerable areas of a hard, whitish granite or granulite, often composed entirely of quartz and orthoclase felspar, but at times containing an admixture of mica. Whatever may be the age of these granite dykes, they certainly are newer than the rock with which they are now associated, since they are frequently seen to cut directly across the serpentines and to produce an alteration in the mass at the contact; and the view is held by many of those engaged in mining asbestus that the influence of the dykes upon the serpentine which they penetrate is apparently the same in regard to the favorable production of asbestus veins as the presence of diorite dykes on copper or other mineral-bearing strata in the production of metalliferous lodes.

In Quebec the serpentine extends for many miles, and is found at intervals from the Vermont boundary almost to the extremity of Gaspé, the most easterly outcrop in this direction being what is known as Mount Serpentine, on the Dartmouth River, about eleven miles from its outlet into Gaspé Basin. It presents a very large development in the Shick-Shock Mountains, where, at the south west extremity, a spur from the main mass cuts strata of hard dolomitic limestone and conglomerate in a dyke-like mass of 150 feet in width. Further west, though outcrops may exist in the great belt of comparatively unknown lands in rear of River Du Loup and Rimouski, its presence is not yet known in this direction till we reach the road leading south from St. Thomas to the boundary of Maine, about forty-four miles east of the Chaudiòre River. There several small knolls are found which apparently mark the eastern termination of the Cambrian volcanic belt. Further west, the serpentine occurs in limited areas with the dioritic masses of Cranbourne and Ware, and in several small outcrops on the Chaudière between St. Joseph and St. Francis; but in the Townships