

flowing into the St. Lawrence. These mountains are more or less prominent outside of the basin of the St. Lawrence, as they sweep round Hudson's Bay and away to the north. After leaving the basin of the St. Lawrence and before coming to the basin of the McKenzie, they are traversed by two of the affluents of Hudson's Bay, the Saskatchewan and the Churchill, the former of which takes rise in the Rocky Mountains.

The section of country included in this formation possesses most of the natural scenery of Canada. Natural scenery exists on the southern side of the St. Lawrence among the Notre Dame Mountains, along the Peninsula of Gaspé, and down into New Brunswick; but it is not so beautiful and profuse as that to be seen to the north, with its numerous rivers and foaming cascades, its multitudinous lakes strung together into chains by little streams, affording endless opportunity to the hunter in his canoe and attracting the tourists from the cities of the south. The tourists of our own city of Toronto usually seek recreation among Lakes Rousseau, Muskoka and Joseph, some even going so far north as Doe Lake and Lake Nipissing. Probably when the Northern Railway is opened up to Callander, more tourists will find their way up to Lake Nipissing, which is a large expanse of water, and completely dotted with rocky and green islets. It may be that its shoaly nature, and therefore its disposition to storms, will make it a little unsafe for boating. The well-known Thousand Islands below Kingston, that attract so many visitors during the summer months, also belong to the Laurentian formation.

The visitor from Southern Ontario to this Northern country is struck with the nature of the water, from which there is a total absence of lime, except in a few places, and which therefore appears insipid and tasteless. On remarking this to the native, that usually taciturn individual suddenly becomes a voluble talker. He can point you to a particular spring five or six miles away, by the roadside, which tastes of lime, and he tells you that he never passes there without taking a refreshing draught from its bubbling waters. Going to the shelf in his house, on which stands the clock, whose foundation is hedged about with curious stones, he brings you one which looks something like quartz but is a little softer, and informs you that that is the kind of limestone they have in their country, nothing like the greyish white stone in the south, quite an anomaly in the world; and you are expected to say you never saw anything like it before, although it is a plentiful rock in some other parts of the world. He tells you of a quarry and lime-kiln ten miles distant, where all the settlers go when they wish to obtain lime to whitewash their houses.

This particular limestone which astonishes so many, differs from the massive earthy limestone, in being crystalline. All the rocks of the Laurentian Age are crystalline, and limestone occurs interstratified with granite, gneiss and other rocks.

One peculiar feature of this country consists in its many hills and valleys; and where the rocks are exposed they seem to run in rolling ridges with a direction almost east and west. Over these rocks appear striae, having the general direction of north and south. The ridges are probably caused by the wearing and denuding of moving superimposed matter on rocks of unequal toughness and powers of resistance. This explanation is made likely by the fact that limestone—a soft rock—is interstratified with quartzite and granite—hard rocks—and it is alternately brought to the surface with the latter by the folding and crumpling of the Laurentian strata. The striae indicate that the wearing of these rocks was accomplished largely by glaciers. The beds of our