

other words, it is to its surroundings what eyes are to the human countenance that seems blank and inexpressive without them. These lakes are often mirrors set in frames of woodlands and meadows, reflecting not only the varied beauties of the shores, but the smiles and frowns of sunny skies and stormy clouds. The wild winds can soon fret these placid waters into white-capped waves that chase each other to the rugged margins where their tempest mimicry is lost amid the rocks and sands.

While these lakes are goodly to look upon and pleasing to invade with oar or paddle, still their greatest value lies in the fact that they are calculated to awaken an interest in their origin and thus set one to thinking along lines that are worth following up, if it be true, as our Scriptures have it, that "There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel." These lakes in point of age are but of yesterday compared with the bedrock of quartzites that crop out along their shores and elsewhere over all the region round about. This rock formation is composed of sands that were chafed from the coast of a land that once occupied this very location, so long ago that there were no living creatures on the land and no fishes in the sea. Fifty million years is a modest estimate of the age of these whin or quartzite and slate ledges which underlie all the surface drift of sand and gravel and loose rocks of the entire Atlantic water-shed of Nova Scotia. The steps by which this conclusion has been reached by geologists are of the most convincing nature and are not difficult to understand.

These lakes occupy shallow basins which were scooped out of this ancient rock-floor by the great glacial ice-cap which during thousands of years held the northern hemisphere in its frigid grasp.

This great Ice Age was due to a gradual lowering of the temperature. The summers became shorter and shorter until the snow of the preceding winter had not melted before another contribution was added. This was repeated during