

arrangement of its constituents. Here it is seen with the ingredients pretty equally mixed, forming a granite; in another place, the components are in regular layers, again these layers are bent and contorted in every possible way. In many places the mountains are much shattered, broken into larger and smaller masses as if by some violent explosion; sometimes these large masses present a very threatening appearance as the train rushes along under them, so slightly do they appear to be supported.

At about sixty-five miles from Quebec, the line of railway comes to the east side of the River Batiscan, and continues its course along the sides of the mountains forming its bank for nearly thirty miles. The scenery along this river is singularly beautiful. The Batiscan, about 150 yards wide, in this part of its course is an alternation of foaming rapids, some of them cascades, and stretches of less boisterous, beautifully clear water running between high mountains, clothed, except where too steep, with arborescent verdure from the river to the summit. As the track rises—and there are some very steep grades in this part—the mountains increase in elevation, some of the highest rising to the height of 1500 or 1600 feet (perhaps more) above us. Towards the south their shape is a sort of elliptical curve, on the north side they are nearly perpendicular and show bare surfaces of rock some hundreds of square feet in extent.

The whole of the country abounds in lakes. It is said that in a rectangle reaching in length from Quebec to Lake St. John, and twenty miles wide, 500 lakes have been counted by the railway surveyors. Several of these are large. Lake Edward, or Lac des grandes îles, is twenty-one miles long, and seven and a half miles wide, and contains many large islands, which, with the hills which encircle the lake, are covered with forest, healthy trees, in no place disfigured by the black half-burned stumps which so often spoil the beauty of our woodlands.

Near Lake Kiskisink or Cedar Lake, the railway crosses the height of land between Quebec and Lake St. John, its