

"Mr. C. H. Hitchcock exhibited a geological map of Vermont, and explained the principal features of the complicated geology of that State.

"The two most interesting points in this connection were, that there is no foundation for what Mr. Emmons called his Taconic system, (a mixture of the Silurian and Devonian,) and that the Dorset limestone (his Stockbridge limestone) is newer than the lower Silurian, and is probably upper Silurian or Devonian.

"Prof. W. B. Rogers remarked upon the importance of the investigations referred to by Mr. Hitchcock, and spoke of the difficulty which the geologist has to encounter in attempting to ascertain the precise sequence of the rocks in a region where, as in the greater part of Vermont, perplexing structural features, metamorphic influences, and an extreme paucity of fossils combine to embarrass his enquiries. It is not therefore matter of surprise that, in spite of repeated explorations, some important problems in the geology of the State should still remain unresolved.

"As regards the belt of formations on the western side of the State, extending along the shore of Lake Champlain, the abundance of fossils and the almost undisturbed position of the strata have rendered their investigation comparatively easy, so that these formations were early identified with the lower members of the paleozoic series, from the Potsdam sandstone to the Hudson River group inclusive. Immediately eastward of this narrow strip is another belt of variable breadth, extending through more than half the length of the State, and passing northward into Canada. This consists of reddish sandstone and shales, and reddish, white, and gray limestones, which, from lithological peculiarities and the absence of distinct fossils, were much less easily referred to their proper geological position. Indeed it is only within a few years that this remarkable group of strata has been generally recognized as *belonging to the period of the Oneida and Medina rocks*, to which Mr. Hitchcock now refers them.

"As connected with the history of this investigation, Prof. Rogers felt some satisfaction in stating that in a paper entitled "*Notes on the Geological Structure of Western Vermont, &c.*," communicated by him to the American Association at Albany in 1851, the manuscript of which he now submitted, he gave a detailed account of numerous sections and longitudinal tracings made during preceding seasons, and in express terms announced the conclusion that