

The Nova Scotia Normal.

"Fit Faber Fabricando."

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NOVA SCOTIAN GEOLOGY.

In remote geological time we picture an ocean that surged without a break from pole to pole, tides that rolled in one restless sweep around a shoreless world—a lifeless wash of waters where the only sound was the rippling of wind and wave and where the sun rose and set age after age for nought that man can conceive. Such is the tale told by the oldest of stratified rocks, the Laurentian. But as time passed on land arose, though to after ages was left the birth of this province-by-the-sea. Through ages that we have no means to measure, the ocean rolled o'er Nova Scotians' future home and the Atlantic's broad billows foamed unchecked from the Laurentines of Canada to the eastern world. Our Cambrian rocks, five miles in thickness were then laid down—their architect, old ocean; their building material, the muddy sediment formed by an ever restless sea. And right here we are confronted with one of the many wonders of geology. When we know that one inch of this fine sediment requires many years to accumulate, what must be the time allowance for over 25,000 feet. And this tremendous thickness, we must remember, is included in the lower part of the Cambrian, one of the many geological strata. Such are the items that combine to make up the vastness of geological time, where ten thousand years is no more than a moment in the life of puny man—a single throb in the life blood of old mother earth.

But through the mists and shadows of ages unnumbered, we discover a change, a change as great as it was lasting. The crust of the slowly cooling earth gives way to the tremendous strain brought to bear upon it and solid rock, miles in thickness, bends and crumples as paper in the hand of the child, leaving rolling hill and mountain peak as an everlasting witness to the truth of this ancient story. This event, though exceeded in grandeur and violence in more recent times, yet is made memorable to us Nova Scotians by the fact that it was the first birthday of our native province.