

tion commenced along the south-eastern line of the ancient gneissic continent, which gave rise to the division that now forms the western and eastern basins. The western basin includes those strata which extended over the surface of the submerged continent, together with the Pre-chazy rocks of Lake Superior, while the Lower Silurian rocks of the eastern basin present only the Pre-chazy formations, unconformably overlaid in parts by Upper Silurian and Devonian rocks. In the western basin the measures are comparatively flat and undisturbed, while in the eastern they are thrown into innumerable undulations, a vast majority of which present anticlinal forms overturned on the north-western side. The general sinuous north-east and south-west axis of these undulations is parallel with the great dislocation of the St. Lawrence, and the undulations themselves are a part of those belonging to the Apalachian chain of mountains. It is in the western basin that we must look for the more regular succession of the Silurian rocks, from the time of the Chazy, and in the eastern, including Newfoundland, for that of those anterior to it."

The last sentence may, in the light of recent discoveries, be regarded as little less than a prophetic anticipation of the work of Hartt, Matthew, Walcott and others.

It may be asked, however, why, if these rocks are of Chazy-calciferous age, give them a distinct name. The answer is that there is in such cases a real value in local names. They designate the special development of particular groups in distinct localities; and it would be well if geologists, instead of wrangling about these names, would recognize each in its several sphere. Old Red, Devonian, Esfelian and Erian, may all be names for one set of rocks, but they designate entirely distinct developments, and are therefore useful, though it is no doubt more desirable to have uniform names for *systems* of formations than for *series* under these. More especially names of this kind, which distinguish the older rocks of the Atlantic basin from their contemporaries on the submerged continental plateaus, are eminently useful in the present state of science. Let it be