

After a preface of considerable length, explanatory of the origin, organization, and general progress of the Survey, the Report opens with a very elaborate sketch of the physical characteristics of the country, from the Gulf of the St. Lawrence and bleak wastes of Labrador, to the plains and forests of the far north-west, beyond the shores of Lake Superior. This interesting and exceedingly instructive sketch, from the pen of the Director of the Survey, is followed by a series of chapters in which the various Azoic and succeeding rocks of the Province are described in great detail. Amongst other new facts, a point of much interest, in connexion with the Laurentian strata, is the announcement of a probable want of conformity between the lower gneissoid beds and the overlying anorthosites, leading to the recognition of a third Azoic subdivision, or one of an intermediate position between the Laurentian and the Huronian series. Much interesting information is also given with regard to the upper copper-bearing series of Lake Superior, and the apparent identity of these rocks with the Potsdam and Quebec groups of the east. The abnormal position of the Quebec strata is likewise distinguished and illustrated very fully; and the subject is still further elaborated in a subsequent chapter. The materials for this portion of the Report have been collected chiefly by Sir William Logan, Mr. Murray, and Mr. Billings; and the fossil illustrations (with the exception of some figures by Dr. Dawson, in illustration of the Devonian plants of Gaspé), are by the latter observer. Towards the close of the volume, Mr. Billings has also furnished a complete and most useful list of all the fossils of our Lower Silurian series. Those of our succeeding formations will undoubtedly be given in forthcoming Reports.

In the seventeenth and three following chapters of the present work, the mineral species of Canada, and the springs and waters of the Province, together with the chemistry of our Sedimentary, Metamorphic, and Eruptive Rocks, are brought under review. This portion of the Report, due to Professor Sterry Hunt, exhibits much accurate research, and contains a large amount of information of an exceedingly interesting character. The numerous analyses given in connexion with these questions, are not the least important part of Professor Hunt's contributions. To the same author, also, belongs the credit of a large portion of the succeeding chapter of this Report, comprising a detailed view of the economic geology of Canada. Readers who seek especially for practical results, will find all they can desire in this chapter. Full