

several hundreds of tons. These are usually imbedded in a tough clay, and sometimes so cemented together as to require the aid of blasting in order to proceed with the work. The boulders are many of them of the same kind of rock as that which exists in the neighbourhood, while a large proportion consist of materials only known in some distant part of the country. These latter are more rounded than the former, a consequence of the rough usage they have received during their transportation from the parent bed. The drift is often overlaid by beds of clay or sand, containing a few or no boulders; but where this is not the case, and the drift constitutes the surface, then the farmer who owns the field will find himself greatly annoyed by the innumerable round stones that impede his plough. From such fields the boulders may all be removed from the surface, and after a few years a fresh crop will take their place, having worked up from the deposit of drift below, which extends downwards to the solid rock. Stoney fields are so common in Canada that they are not usually looked upon as objects of curiosity; and yet the question of how the stones came there is the most curious one in the science of geology. If it could be proved that they were created on the spot where we now find them, there would be an end of the question; but then the more a person examines them, the more convinced he will feel that they have been transported from some locality more or less distant. It is not our purpose to enter into all the proofs, but we shall mention a few of the most striking evidences that boulders are what they appear to be, and are often called travelled stones.

It has been already mentioned in this journal in several places, that the Lawrencian Rocks occupy the northern frontier of Canada, while a broad stripe all along the southern margin, from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to Lake Huron, is underlaid by the Silurian and Devonian Formations, only concealed from view by the drift which, with a slight admixture of vegetable matter, constitutes the ordinary agricultural soil of the country. The principal exception is between Brockville and Kingston, where the Lawrencian Formation comes down from the north, and crosses the St. Lawrence into the State of New York. Were a person to journey from the east towards the west along the base of the Lawrencian hills, he would have continually upon his left hand the flat country, underlaid by the sandstones, limestones and shales of the fossiliferous formations, and occasionally he would see places where these are laid bare, and abut against the gneissoid rocks which