

climate, the ice disappeared, leaving as a legacy the present Nova Scotia, and progressive fauna, and probably the fishing banks off the coast, now teeming with their finny millions. Since then no further geological disturbance has taken place.

The gradual melting of the glaciers, which at one time must have given this region an appearance similar to that of Greenland at the present day, left also the boulder clay and drift deposits, by which the rock is more or less overspread. At Point Pleasant, just below Fort Cambridge, may be found by diligent seekers, specimens of amygdaloid and other minerals, which show that no small portion of the deposit has been borne by a long continued ice movement, from the trap districts of the Bay of Fundy, reaching the ocean by the coast, as the glaciers and icebergs of Greenland now do by Baffin's Bay and Davis' Straits.

A visit to the Forts, although not intimately connected with natural science, affords good evidence of the perfection to which *military* science has attained within a comparatively short period, and the permission was highly appreciated. Judging by their commanding position, and likewise by the support they would receive from McNab's Island and Fort Clarence, on the opposite shores, and from George's Island further on, to say nothing of modern torpedo warfare—the charge at Balaclava would be a small affair compared with the temerity that would attempt a hostile passage. It was thereupon agreed, *nem con*, that so far as Halifax is concerned, no one's sleep need be ever disturbed, by threats of, or actual invasion. The thought was also intruded, that we owe much to the Mother Country, which after such a fashion has ensured our safety, seeing that all the resources of the Dominion are scarcely adequate to fulfil that duty. Yet does our geographical and strategical importance fully counterbalance the cost of these defences, and the enormous artillery and other warlike appliances which compose their armament; for Halifax, held by a first rate naval power, is the key, not alone of the Dominion, but also to the West Indies and the neighboring United States.

So far the excursion was all that could be desired; but here the pleasure was fated to come to a rather sudden termination.