They are described as a rugged range, with an average height of 1,300 feet, skirting the north bank of the St. Lawrence river, in the lower part of its course, and extending from Labrador to the vicinity of Quebec, where they leave the river, but still keep nearly parallel with it, until about thirty miles west of Montreal, when, skirting the Ottawa for about 100 miles, they cross it and curve round to near Kingston and into Northern New York, whenee the range extends northwestward to the shores of Lakes Huron and Superior, which are skirted on the north. In the same general direction the Laurentian formation may be traced to the shores of the Arctic Ocean, along the eastern borders of the Lake of the Woods and Lakes Winnipeg, Athabasea, Great Deer, Great Slave and Great Bear. Constantly associated with the chrystaline, trappean and metamorphic rocks which characterize the Laurentides, long ridges of granite often intrude with many evidences of eruptive or igneous agencies. With their curved line of 3,000 miles, like a scymeter with the handle resting on the coast of Labrador, and the point touching the Arctic coast, on the eastern border of the interior basin of the Mackenzie river, they constitute a "plutonic chain," a "main axis of dislocation," to repeat terms used by Prof. David Dale Owen in his survey of northern Minnesota in 1850, from which southward and westward geologists trace the later sedimentary rocks, especially those fertile and valuable deposits of limestone, which are characterized as silurian and devonian.

Sir Roderick Murchison has frequently advanced the opinion that the productive gold districts of the world occur where the silurian, and perhaps the lower strata of devonian, rocks are in contact with, or have been penetrated by green stones, porphyries, serpentine, granitic and other rocks of the primary formation. Gold, especially when traced to its original matrix, is found to occur chiefly in veins or lodes of quartz rising from beneath and cutting through the secondary strata or beds of which the surface was previously composed. Indeed, as English explorers trace this contact of primary and silurian formations along the basins of the Lake of the Woods and Lakes Winnipeg, Athabasca and Slave and the channel of the Mackenzie river to the Arctic Ocean, it becomes an interesting problem for future solution whether the auriferous deposits of Alaska and British Columbia may not be extended with various degrees of productiveness along the flanks of the crest which separates the waters of the Gulf of Mexico and St. Lawrence from those of the Arctic Ocean and Hudson's Bay, quite as the discoveries of this century have followed the Ural mines eastward through Siberia to the Pacific.

But we must avoid digression. The general mineral wealth of the Laurentides is a fruitful topic, but its consideration must yield to the inquiry of their relation to coal-bearing districts.

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