

continent by the red clay on his boots. We need not be ashamed of this same red clay, for its color is due to oxide of iron and wherever we find a native of the soil we may depend that we have a person with lots of iron and oxygen in his system. It is only in sections where decaying organic remains have removed the iron that we find the red tinge replaced by white or grey. In such places we are likely to find the iron deposited, in depressions, in the form of bog iron ore.

Taken as a whole the Island is Permian, overlaid in places by deposits of Trias and Quaternary. Anticlinals have brought small tracts of upper carboniferous to the surface—Gallas Point, Governor's Island and the South side of St. Peters Island are instances. Interesting fossils of plants long vanished from the earth may be obtained in these localities.

When we say that the Island is Permian, every teacher understands the term, but there may be a few young students, who will puzzle over the word. For a time let us divest ourselves of ideas of the earth as it now exists, and revert, in imagination, to the time when the earth was void and empty, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the spirit of God moved over the waters.

The first rocks resulted from the cooling of matter from its fluid state. When the earth became cool enough to retain water on its surface a lifeless

ocean rolled its tide around the world, grinding the igneous cliffs and scattering their sands into the depths. This was the beginning of the great Laurentian system, the backbone of our own Canadian land. Shellfish, the *Eozoön Canadense* are the earliest remains of animal life which the earth has preserved to excite the wonder of its most highly organized inhabitants, countless millions of years later.

We may believe that the first rays of light which pierced the canopy of primeval gloom in answer to the mandate "Be light made" decked the land with a wondrous vegetation.

After the Laurentian came the Cambrian, a system which gets its name from the ancient name of Wales. This formation has traces of zoophytes and primitive crustacea, but scarcely any trace of plant life has survived. The Silurian, named after a tribe familiar to those who care to delve into ancient history, comes next and bears many fossils of corals, shellfish, worms and other low forms of life. Next comes the old Red Sandstone of Hugh Miller, containing shellfish and wonderful fishes, armour clad and prodigious such as small boys dream of after playing truant to go fishing. The next system brings us near home. It is the Carboniferous such as exists in Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and likely under our own Island, perhaps not so very deep at Gallas Point, Wood Islands or Miminigash.