

REVIEWS.

Geological Survey of Canada. Report of Progress from its Commencement to 1863. By Sir W. E. Logan, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., Director; Alexander Murray, Esq., Assistant Geologist; T. Sterry Hunt, M.A., F.R.S., Chemist and Mineralogist; and E. Billings, F.G.S., Palæontologist. Montreal: Dawson Brothers; London, Paris, and New York: Baillière. 1863.

This important volume, so eagerly looked for both at home and abroad, amply sustains the expectations created by its announcement. Of a far more complete character than the ordinary Reports of Progress which have preceded it, the present Report exhibits a condensed view of the results of our Geological Survey, from the commencement of this work in 1843, to the close of 1862. The results in question, methodized and systematically arranged, form a complete treatise on the geology and mineral wealth of the Province: only requiring a little preliminary knowledge of geological details—such as may be gained in the lecture-room, or by the study of explanatory works—to be properly understood and appreciated by the general reader. The presence of a large number of woodcuts, chiefly illustrative of organic remains, adds much to the value of this Report, and a series of maps will shortly be issued in connection with it. One of these, already completed, is a coloured geological map of Canada; and another will exhibit the distribution of the surface or Post-Tertiary formations—the clays, sands, calcareous tufas, and other comparatively modern deposits, which make up the principal portion of our soils. A map of this kind has long been a desideratum. Apart from its utility in engineering, draining, and other similar operations, it will prove most serviceable in an agricultural point of view. In its compilation, the officers of the survey have been materially assisted by Mr. Robert Bell, a young Canadian naturalist, first brought prominently forward by Sir William Logan, and lately elected Professor of Natural Sciences in the University of Queen's College, Kingston.

As constant reference has been made to this Report, and many of its conclusions noticed, in a series of popular communications on the Geology of Canada, published in recent numbers of our Journal, we purpose, in the present place, to give merely a general analysis of the contents of the volume, and thus to take our part in calling attention to the great claims of the work to public recognition.