

TO HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR EDMUND WALKER HEAD, BART.,

ONE OF HER MAJESTY'S MOST HONORABLE PRIVY COUNCIL,

Governor General of British North America,

AND

CAPTAIN-GENERAL AND GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF

IN AND OVER

THE PROVINCES OF CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA, NEW BRUNSWICK, AND THE ISLAND OF
PRINCE EDWARD,

AND VICE-ADMIRAL OF THE SAME.

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MONTREAL, 31st March, 1857.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

Though the duties assigned to me in the years 1854 and 1855, in making such a collection of the economic minerals of Canada as the occasion required, and in displaying them before Europe at the Industrial Exhibition of Paris, have greatly tended to spread a knowledge of that branch of the resources of the Province, and a general acquaintance with her geology, they have prevented me from placing before Your Excellency, at regular intervals, Reports of the progress effected in the Survey committed to my charge. I have now, in consequence, the honour to transmit to Your Excellency the accumulated Reports of my colleagues, Mr. Murray and Mr. Hunt, for the years 1853, 1854, 1855 and 1856, with the Reports of Mr. Billings and Mr. Richardson, for the last season.

The Reports of Mr. Hunt comprehend various investigations of the limefeldspar rocks and their associated minerals of the Laurentian formation; researches on the composition of the waters of the Ottawa and St. Lawrence, and various mineral springs; examinations of the serpentines and other metamorphic rocks of the Eastern townships, and of a series of traps and intrusive rocks. Having been appointed one of the jurors of the class comprehending minerals at the Paris Exhibition in 1855, his Report for that year is devoted to some chemical and mineralogical considerations connected with it, having special reference to our native products and industry.

Mr. Richardson's Report relates to an exploration of the Island of Anticosti, the palaeontological results of which, with a descriptive list of various new species of organic remains, constitute the subjects treated in the Report of Mr. Billings.