The following table exhibits the names and the order of succession of the geological groups which have been recognized as existing within the limits of our district.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE ROCKS.

FORMATIONS.	IGNEOUS.	OF VARIOUS AGES.	Plutonic Rocks.	Granite, Syenite, Feldspar and Quartz rock.
			Trappean, or Volcanic Rocks.	Greenstone, or Dolerite, Porphyry, Basalt, Amygdaloid, Hornblende and Serpentine Rocks, Masses of Specular and Magnetic Oxide of Iron.
	METAMORPHIC.	AZOIC SYSTEM.		Gneiss, Mica and Hornblende Slate, Chlorite, Talcose and Argillaceous Slate, Beds of Quartz and Saccharoidal Marble.
	AQUEOUS.	SILURIAN SYSTEM.	Lower.	Potsdam Sandstone. Calciferous Sandstone. Chazy Limestone. Birds-eye Limestone. Black-River Limestone. Trenton Limestone. Galena Limestone. Hudson-River Group.
			Upper.	Clinton Group. Niagara Group. Onondaga Salt Group.
		DEVONIAN SYSTEM. . . .		Upper Helderberg Series.
		DRIFT SYSTEM.		Beds of Sand, Clay and Gravel rudely stratified, Transported Blocks of Granite, Greenstone, &c.
		ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS.		Sand and Pebble Beaches, Marshes, Flats, Hooks, Spits, Dunes, &c.

The term *rock*, according to the arrangement of M. Constant Prevost,* is applied to masses, or beds, whether the elements composing them be homogenous, or complex: *formation* explains their origin, while *system* designates the relative ages of the different parts.

Two sets of causes have operated simultaneously to produce the various compounds which compose the crust of the earth: these are the IGNEOUS and the AQUEOUS. The rocks resulting from the first, or igneous set, have a crystalline aspect, and contain certain mineral substances, such as feldspar, mica, hornblende, pyroxene, &c., constituting great irregular masses, and traversed by divisional planes, pursuing, for the most part, a uniform direction.

The rocks resulting from the second, or aqueous set, are arranged in sedimentary deposits, divided into strata, beds, layers, &c., composed, for the most part, of argillaceous, calcareous and arenaceous particles, and often contain numerous organic remains.

* Article "FORMATION" Dictionnaire Universel d' Histoire Naturelle.