

Mr. TAYLOR, in further illustration of the geological topic, referred with some minuteness to the relative position of Minnesota. The limestone bluffs at St. Paul were lower silurian, and the sandstone beneath would be found resting directly on the granite. Indeed, this primary rock was found *in place*, as we descend still further through the geological basin toward St. Cloud and the valley of Sauk River. Thence northwest, we are rising, and on the head waters of the Red River, a short distance below the outlet of the Otter Tail Lake, Prof. Owen discovered fossils identical with those observed in the limestone bluffs below St. Paul. Here silurian rocks reappear, and by all analogies, the coal measures should be found by going northwest. Accordingly, maps published by the British Parliament, reveal an immense silurian development, embracing the Red River valley and the Saskatchewan, except the vicinity of its sources near the Rocky Mountains, where the coal measures appear and are estimated to occupy an area of three hundred miles in diameter, while the mountains themselves are a mighty upheaval of primitive rocks, as already stated. Doubtless the fact that the Saskatchewan plains are of such gentle elevation as to average less than a mean of twelve hundred feet above the sea, may serve to explain the vast range of the silurian formation, as well as the similarity of climate to what we enjoy in Minnesota.

While the difference in altitude between the Saskatchewan valley and the United States Territory is great, materially affecting the climate, the circumstance may not be without influence geologically. The plateau of the Upper Missouri, although much lower than corresponding longitudes of Kansas, Utah and New Mexico, greatly exceeds in mean elevation any portion of Minnesota and Saskatchewan. While, therefore, the silurian rocks are developed on a vast scale in the districts last named, Nicollet and others testify that the banks of the Missouri at Fort Pierre, due west from St. Paul, present the cretaceous formation. *This is above the coal*; and of course coal must be found either in Minnesota or the future Territory of Dacotah, since the Mississippi bluffs are well known to be situated below the coal measures. Whether on the James, the Sioux, the Upper Minnesota, or the tributaries of the Blue Earth, these valuable deposits may be concealed, will soon be ascertained.

To return from this digression. While the natural features of British Oregon prepare us for the recent intelligence, there is evidence that the actual discovery has been for some years "the secret of a corporation." Gov. Stevens, of Washington Territory, speaks of successful gold mining on the American side of the boun-