

of the distribution of the drift deposits of sand and gravel and the great areas of clay, either of marine or fresh water origin. In the former of these, the earliest traces of man's existence on this continent are supposed to be found, and his presence in America at a very remote date, comparatively speaking, is held by many observers to be clearly established. In many places the submergence of the surface beneath the sea is clearly proved by the presence of marine shells in beds or local deposits, or by the finding of the bones of the seal, of fish, or other forms of marine life : but the fact that very large areas of these clays furnish, at the present day, no trace of these remains, shews clearly that their absence in these deposits must not be taken as conclusive that these were not deposited under marine conditions equally with the beds which carry these organisms. So also the presence of characteristic sea beaches, composed of well rounded water-worn stones, at elevations of hundreds of feet above present sea level and far removed from the present ocean limit, establishes clearly the fact that at one time the salt sea spread over a much more widely extended area than it now occupies. Thus in the rear of the village of Quyon and four miles north of the Ottawa river several of these perfectly defined beaches can be recognized, their pavements of well rounded water-worn stones, curving in exactly the same manner as those now seen along the shores of the many bays of the Atlantic coast. Some of these well defined shore lines have been recognized along mountain slopes at elevations of hundreds of feet above the sea at various places throughout Northern and Eastern America. Near home probably one of the most interesting of these old beaches may be seen on the Rigaud mountain on the south side of the Lake of Two Mountains, which is the expansion of the Ottawa River, a short distance above its junction with the St. Lawrence. The mountain rises from the village of Rigaud, which nestles at its foot, to a height of about 750 feet above the river, the highest point being at its south-west extremity. From this point the mountain extends north-easterly in a long ridge, the elevation in rear of Rigaud village being about 500 feet. Along the summit of this, scattered boulders of limestone, gneiss and syenite from the Laurentian range north of the Ottawa are seen, but further down along the north-west slope of the ridge and almost in rear of the cemetery, a curious deposit of well rounded water-worn