

gant stories of Indian and half-breed hunters about Lake St. John, 'convinced them that they had a perfect inland sea, and the Government was petitioned to finish the surveys previously begun. Their request being granted, the party to which I was attached was sent out in 1884, with Mr. John Bignell in charge.

Mr. Bignell was recalled in the spring of 1885. On his return to Quebec, many startling statements as to the great extent and immense size of the lake appeared in the press of that city and were copied by the newspapers all over the land. On my return, in the fall of 1885, I reported on the measured size of the lake, but, as it fell far short of the previous stories, and as the press of Quebec continued to support Mr. Bignell's statement—based on Indian exaggerations,—the general public were in a state of uncertainty which to believe. During the past summer, however, Prof. Loudon and Mr. MacDonald, of Toronto, resolved to make a trip to the lake to solve the problem. A full account of their trip was published in the newspapers, which, I am happy to say, corroborated my report; and thus the matter is settled.

The great area of country stretching from the Gulf of St. Lawrence north-westward to Hudson Bay forms a low-lying plateau of Archean rocks. The height of this plateau averages about 1,500 ft. above sea level, rising slowly from about 1,000 ft. near the edge to about 2,000 ft. in the interior. The surface of this plateau is by no means flat, being covered with low rounded hills, which are roughly arranged in a series of ridges more or less parallel to themselves and the general strike of the rocks. These hills are the stubs of extensive and elevated mountain chains which, from exposure to subaëreal denudation for countless ages, and from having been subjected to the glacial action of later geological times, have been ground down to their present unimposing state. In the interior the difference of level between these ridges and the valleys separating them is small, the hills seldom rising 100 ft. above the general level. As the coast is approached the difference is more marked, the long action of ancient rivers having deeply cut out the principal valleys below the surrounding country, thus causing a more marked contrast in level and at the same time much finer scenery.