

berg age. This absence of the Niagara limestone is general in Nova Scotia, and along the Atlantic margin of North America. Farther West, in Northern New Brunswick, and in Gaspé, massive limestones appear, but they attain their greatest development in the interior plateau south of the great lakes.

With reference to the dates and disturbances of these deposits, it may be affirmed that there was much volcanic action at the time of the deposition of the Cobequid series; that this series experienced no little disturbance and alteration before the Upper Silurian rocks were laid down; that the latter were subsequently much folded and fractured before the Carboniferous Period, and that since that period there has been sufficient movement to cause the carboniferous rocks to be locally highly inclined and faulted. In the trappean beds, interstratified with the Lower Carboniferous conglomerates of the coast to the eastward, there is evidence of the continuance of igneous action up to that time. As to the age of the iron deposits, the formation of the great veins of specular iron and ankerite was probably contemporaneous with the earliest disturbances of the Cobequid series, and previous to the Lower Helderberg age. The great interstratified beds of Hematite are undoubtedly of the latter age, unless the lowest bed should be regarded as between this and the Clinton. The veins of Limonite, mixed with oxide of manganese, are later than the Lower Carboniferous, and constitute here as in the Cobequids a secondary product of the decomposition of the carbonate of iron contained in the ankerite and spathic iron of the Cobequid series.

IRON ORE BED. WEBSTER LOCATION.

