

These rocks are, in Canada West, highly fossiliferous, and in some places even densely crowded with the remains of extinct species of corals, encrinites, molluscs, trilobites, and large fishes. The fossils, however, are for the greater part in so imperfect a condition, that few of the species can be well defined from the collections made thus far, and, on account of the scarcity of good specimens, many years must elapse before anything approaching to a complete description of the whole fauna of the period can be produced. To accomplish this within a reasonable time, will require the co-operation of many local observers, each devoting his leisure hours to the minute examination of all the rocks in the neighbourhood of his residence, and each influenced to do so by the desire of promoting the cultivation of the sciences in this Province. With a number of such men distributed throughout the fossiliferous regions of Canada, the work will advance rapidly. Without some voluntary assistance of this kind, the progress must be extremely gradual, so difficult is it to procure good specimens of most of the species. Few are aware of the importance of long-continued researches in a single locality, or even in a single quarry. I devoted the greater part of the spare time of seven years to the examination of an area of which all the exposed patches of rock, if put together, would not make a superficies of one square mile, and yet its treasures were not exhausted. Since I left, others have entered the same field, and have been rewarded by the discovery of many interesting new facts. There are hundreds of such localities in Canada yet to be explored; and if there were a good observer in or near each of them, and if all would freely communicate the fruits of their labours, the combined results could not be otherwise than important to science, and highly creditable to the country.

In making collections, the mode of procedure is exceedingly simple. All that is to be done is to examine the rocks, and if they contain fossils, collect them. The specimens should then be sent where the species can be determined. Unless the observer publishes some account of his facts, or (in case he does not feel competent to do so himself) communicates them to some other person who can and will give them publicity, the labour is lost. In the following and other articles to be published in this Journal hereafter, I intend to give figures and descriptions of many of our Devonian Fossils, and hope that they may be, to some extent, useful in assisting the local observer to name his specimens. That he can name all that he may