

region, and again, towards probably the close of the glacial epoch, and subsequently, over the vast country east of the Rocky Mountains, now occupied by the prairies, and extending as far as the shores of Lake Winnipeg. The eastern side of this lake, as I have shown in a previous number of this journal, probably formed the eastern coast of a vast inland fresh water sea. There are ample evidences on the prairies of more than one elevation and depression and of the existence of vegetation, during the former. Boulders, some of great size, have been transported immense distances, and this can only be explained by the action of icebergs floating, as at the present day, under the influence of winds and currents. We can even now trace the direction of the currents and of the prevailing winds in those far distant times, as well as of the force which gradually raised the land to its present level. In the great prairie country occupying the southern central portion of Canada, the greatest depression was at the base of the Rocky Mountains, whilst the existence of great boulders there of eastern origin, brought undoubtedly by icebergs, the great areas of sand at and south of the sources of the River Qu'Appelle, and the stretches of sand and the gravel ridges southwest and west of Lake Manitoba, all prove that the winds most prevalent, and probably the currents, were in a direction somewhat south of west. The elevation of the land to its present level was greatest at the Rocky Mountains and least towards Lake Winnipeg, and this has resulted in the flow of great rivers like the Saskatchewan and Qu'Appelle being at the present day in a general easterly direction. The great depth of soil over such a vast area as the north-west prairies, indicates either an immensely longer period during which the mountains and valleys to the northward were the subjects of erosion, or that the process of erosion was of a more severe character than in Ontario and Quebec, or that, in the latter provinces, subsequent depression under the ocean and inland seas has resulted in the carrying away of much of the soil. That there were inter-periods when the land was raised to some extent from beneath the sea, and vegetation appeared