

ance as far as Point Turnagain, the most eastern point attained by the overland expeditions.

On a general view it appears that the new red sandstone formation prevails along those portions of the North American Arctic shores. "All the islands visited," says Dr Richardson, "were formed of trap or porphyry belonging to that formation; and, judging from similarity of form, the rocks of the other islands belong to the same class. The gneiss formation is next in extent; and, indeed, it appears to run nearly parallel to the coast within the red sandstone from Cape Barrow, across Hood's River above Wilberforce Falls to the bottom of Bathurst's Inlet, and from thence to Hope's Bay, on the western side of Melville Sound. The only foreign beds we observed in the gneiss were granite, perhaps quartz-rock and hornblendic gneiss or syenite. We saw no clay or mica-slate, nor did we observe any formations intermediate between the gneiss and new red sandstone; nor, except at Cape Barrow, where granite predominates, any other formation than the two just mentioned. Our opportunities for observation, however, were not extensive; the necessity of proceeding without delay limiting our botanical and geognostical excursions to the short period that was required to prepare breakfast or supper."*

From Point Turnagain the party proceeded to Hood's River, which they traced to some distance. Near its mouth that river is from 100 to 300 yards in width, and is bounded by steep high banks of clay, reposing on flötz rocks. At Wilberforce Falls, which are six or seven miles above the second rapid, the river makes a striking descent of about 250 feet into a chasm, the walls of which consist of light-red felspathose sandstone, belonging, as Dr Richardson supposes, to the old red sandstone formation, or that which lies under coal, and occasionally alternates with transition rocks.† A short distance above these falls the gneiss formation appears, and produces hills precisely similar to those about Fort Enterprise. On quitting Hood's River our exploring party ascended from the valley through which it flows, and entered upon an even, clayey, and very barren district, partially covered by shallow lakes. This plain country continued nearly as far as Cracroft's River, where the gneiss reappeared,

* Appendix to Franklin's First Journey, p. 533. † Ibid. p. 534.