

leading geologists present, being content with the received ideas of the joint action of icebergs and glaciers, there was little discussion, although several valuable papers were read, the most important being that of Prof. Phillips, on the physical conditions of the existence of glaciers.

Passing from the newest geological formation to the oldest, a very important communication, by Mr. Salter and Mr. Hincks, detailed the discovery of many curious fossils in rocks of the Cambrian period, below the oldest fossils hitherto known in England. They curiously illustrate the fact that, in the beginning of the animal life of the palæozoic period, all of the three lower provinces of the animal kingdom were represented; a striking contrast in this respect to the still older Laurentian, with its one fossil—the *Eozoon*—a representative of one, and that the most humble of the types of animal life. Mr. Salter also applied his discovery, in a very happy manner, to the illustration of the parallelism between the oldest silurian rocks of America and Europe; and more especially to the connection of the gold producing rocks, with the old slates holding *Paradoxides*, one of those curious connections between fossils and useful minerals which are constantly occurring, and which show the practical value of the study of fossil remains.

A paper by Prof. Harkness, on the limestones of Connemara, supposed to contain fossils similar to the *Eozoon* of the Canadian Laurentian, gave an opportunity of explaining to the section the steps by which the discovery of the fossil and its determination had been reached in this country. Prof. Harkness maintained, in regard to the Connemara rocks, that they are really Lower Silurian, not Laurentian, and that they contain no true Foraminiferal remains, but the Canadian discovery was accepted on all hands as undoubted.

The writer happened to be the only representative of Canadian geology at the meeting, and, in that capacity, was honored by appointment as one of the vice-presidents of the section. He presented two communications, one on the succession of fossil plants in the older geological formations as evidenced in America; the other on the conditions of deposit of our boulder clay, and the evidence as to the climate of the period afforded by fossil plants. Both were well received, and led to some discussion; and he can testify, on this as on previous occasions, of the scientific men of Britain, that they are ever ready to receive a colonial brother on equal terms with themselves, and show none of that mean contempt for colonists which is too conspicuous in the political press of Eng-