

rather to the N. of E. for the lake at the head of Marten River, and appears to run ultimately to Mont Louis on the coast.

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No. 36. From the highest point on the south-western extreme we had a commanding prospect of nearly the whole western range of the mountains, among which the lofty summits of Flag-staff Peak and Mount Bayfield, were distinctly recognisable. The valleys of the upper branches of the Chat and Cascapedia lay to the west and south of us; and while many of the mountains of Gaspé and Bonaventure were presented to us on the south-east, the panorama was bounded on the north-east by the range separating the waters of the Ste. Anne and Magdalen. From the north-eastern station, the same Ste. Anne and Magdalen mountains bounded our view eastward, and the same peaks in Gaspé and Bonaventure were seen south-east; many of the same mountains to the westward; but northward of west the St. Lawrence to its northern shore was spread out, and the valley of the Ste. Anne could be traced extensively, while immediately below us, we could here and there distinguish its rapid torrent rushing along among the rocky cliffs.

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No. 37. The country generally to the north of the great mountain range consists of a series of ridges running parallel to it and to one another, which decrease in elevation as they advance to the westward, and as they approach the shores of the St. Lawrence. These ridges are entirely covered with a dense forest consisting of balsam, fir, spruce, white, black, and yellow birch-trees, white pine, and white cedar; maple, elm, and ash likewise occur, but are comparatively rare. Pine-trees of good size, and many groves of fine spruce occur upon the hills, near the banks of the Ste. Anne and Chat, but on the main branch of the Matan such timber, although not altogether absent, is rare. This is the more to be regretted as it affords facilities for driving far superior to any other river on the south coast of this part of the St. Lawrence, being easily accessible to the highest of its lakes.

Except on the flats, and on the low lands near the shores, the soil appears to be of a very light description, and holds out but few inducements for agricultural improvement; on them the quality is frequently very favourable, and of this the settlements at Matan, Ste. Anne, and Cape Chat are examples. South of the mountain range, on the Matan, the size and the character of the forest growth indicate a better description of soil than on the north; and the country being less broken or mountainous than that to the eastward, might, were it less remotely situated, be cleared and cultivated. Hitherto it has been but rarely visited, except by Indians or hunters in pursuit of fish or furs. Game abounds through the whole of these forests, and the rivers are amply supplied during the summer season with fish and water-fowl. The Chat and Ste. Anne abound with the finest description of salmon and sea-trout; but since the erection of the saw-mill, being unable to get over the dam, they have entirely disappeared from the waters of the Matan, where they are said to have formerly been more numerous than in any other river on the coast.

River Sections.

No. 38. The rivers on the north coast of the peninsula, running for a considerable portion of their course, directly transverse to the general strike of the stratification, afford the best, if not the only, means of obtaining exposed sections of the older rocks in the interior; the whole country, elsewhere, except on the summits of the highest mountains, being clothed with a dense forest; but as even on the rivers the exposures are but partial, their banks being frequently, for long distances, composed of drifted material or overgrown with shrubs and trees, it is a matter of the greatest difficulty to establish a regular order of super-position; and there is to be added to the perplexing embarrassment, resulting from the nature of the surface, the usual difficulty incident to a geological examination of a highly disturbed and altered region.

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No. 39. The character of the range of the Notre Dame mountains, from the Matan to Mount Albert on the Ste. Anne, exactly corresponds with the description given in last year's report of the mountains of the Chat. The colour of the rocks is invariably more or less green, resembling the green of epidote. In some instances they are of a pale-yellowish green, striped or mottled over with red jaspery patches, and are very hard, compact, and silicious. At other times they are found of an olive-green colour, as a fibrous splintery slate, and occasionally they possess a character allied to mica schist. Talc and steatite were sometimes observed among loose fragments on the surface. Wherever the inclination could be determined, it was invariably found to dip to the southward at a very high angle, or to be quite vertical.

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EXTRACTS from the Geographical and Statistical Dictionary, by J. R. McCulloch, Esq.

Article, "Canada."

No. 40. The aspect of the south shore of the estuary of St. Lawrence, between longitude 69° 30' and 72°, though bold and hilly, is not mountainous as on the opposite shore; and the hill ranges are interspersed with valleys and even plains of some extent, many of which, from the encouragement afforded, by the contiguous markets of the capital, have been brought into very tolerable cultivation. East of Kamouraska the country is diversified by more abrupt eminences, while population and culture become more limited; and in the district of Gaspé, the mountains rise into two chains of considerable elevation, enclosing between them a lofty table-land or central valley. The most southerly of these chains bounds on its south side the valley of the Restigouche and St. John's rivers. The upper part of the basin of the St. John forms a region at least 600 or 700 feet above the level of the sea, covered with forests, lakes,