

wooded district, underlaid by hard crystalline rocks, and lying at an average elevation of from 1,000 to 1,500 feet above the sea—Lake Huron being 578 feet, and Lake Superior 600 feet above the sea level. Gneissoid Laurentian strata occupy the greater portion of its area; but these are overlaid along a large portion of the north shore of Lake Huron, and in other localities (as in the country adjacent to Thunder Bay, &c.) by belts of Huronian slates, semi-crystalline conglomerates, and other metamorphic strata; and intrusive masses of granite and trappean rock appear in many places. A higher series of strata, known provisionally as the "Upper Copper-bearing rocks of Lake Superior," overlie these Huronian and Laurentian formations around Thunder Bay and elsewhere in the Lake Superior region. They consist of an under series, mostly of dark slates, and a higher series of indurated marls and calcareous sandstones, the whole traversed or overlaid by enormous masses of trap, as seen at Thunder Cape, &c. Finally, Glacial boulders, clays, and gravels, and Post-Glacial sands, &c., in many places in the form of high terraces, are distributed over the region generally. The Laurentian rocks of the district appear to be destitute of economic minerals, but the Huronian and higher beds are penetrated by numerous metalliferous veins containing copper-pyrites, native silver, silver glance, galena, and other ores. Beds and veins of hæmatite and magnetic iron ore are also present in the Huronian strata of the region; and native gold has been found in rocks of the same age in the Lake Shebandowan country. The copper pyrites and zinc blende of the higher strata around Thunder Bay are also more or less auriferous.

PROVINCE OF MANITOBA,

AND

REGION OF THE NORTH-WEST TERRITORY.

The geology of this vast area—extending from the western boundary-line of Ontario (not yet permanently established) to the Rocky Mountains—is only known at present in its broader or more general features, but it appears to indicate a natural subdivision of the region into four leading districts. These comprise:—(1) The Eastern or Laurentian District; (2) The Eastern Prairie or Lake Manitoba District; (3) The Central Prairie District; and (4) The Mountain District.

(1.) *The Eastern or Laurentian District.*—An elevated rocky region, more or less densely wooded: a continuation of the Lake