

River. In early winter the scene after a light fall of snow is one of remarkable beauty. The falls are not then the object of first attention. The gorge, lined on both sides with icicles, pendent from dark overhanging rock masses, the tall spruces and firs on the banks above silhouetted against the wintry sky, that graceful drooping of branches from the weight of snow which makes these trees so attractive in winter, the lighter tracing of snow on the more delicate branches of smaller deciduous trees and shrubs that line both sides of the gorge, give a picturesqueness to the whole scenery that probably nothing in summer can equal.

What different climatic conditions one meets with in a railway journey from, say, Grand Falls in Northern New Brunswick to the extreme east of Nova Scotia, to Sydney. In mid-December, snow covers the ground in varying depths except about St. John and Sydney. At the latter place one encounters for two days a mild drizzle of rain and fog, while elsewhere there is a comfortable winter temperature.

New Brunswick is the "country of spruces," and the same may be said, although in a lesser degree, of Nova Scotia. Our Lady of the Snows, the spruce might be so called after one of those mild December snow storms which gently usher in our winter. Our waysides at this season afford no more beautiful objects to the traveller than the spruces and firs, large and small, with their branches bending with the weight of snow. The beautiful symmetry of these cone-shaped trees is even more effectively shown in winter than in summer. How bountiful is nature to us in giving this beautiful and protecting winter mantle, which makes the contrast of our summer green all the more welcome when it comes!

But why do the spruces and firs catch more of this wintry snow than the pines or the hemlocks? Perhaps some of our boy and girl nature-students can answer easily this question. Perhaps they can guess why the beech holds many of its leaves throughout the winter; but it's going to puzzle most of them to tell us to which of the little wood folk belong those tracks that they see on the fresh fallen snow.

The Beginnings of Acadia.

By L. W. BAILEY, LL. D.

When and under what conditions did that part of the Earth's surface which we now call Acadia first come into existence? What was its extent and the nature of its surface? And what were the agents or circumstances which brought it into being? Is it possible for us to look back through millions of years and learn anything of events, the operation of which laid the foundations of all which has since transpired in this region and which will control also its future destiny? Let us see—

All dwellers and most visitors in the city of St. John are familiar with Rockwood Park. Occupying a large tract on the elevated ridges which lie to the northward of the city, but separated from the latter by the deep valley through which runs the line of the Intercolonial Railway, it presents features quite peculiar to itself, whether these be the numerous rocky ledges among which wind the foot and drive-ways which make it so attractive, the numerous ponds and lakelets which determine such a variety of picturesque vistas, or the grand views which it affords over the valley and the city to the distant waters of the Bay of Fundy. Still largely in its natural condition, except that the original covering of trees has been almost entirely replaced by a smaller growth, it affords opportunities for delightful rambles, affording varieties of landscapes, including bare rocky knolls, precipitous bluffs, shady retreats, natural and artificial waterfalls, fishing and skating ponds and ever-varying landscapes, which very few places of similar resort can afford. Will it not add interest to those who visit it to know that it is also a part of the oldest American land, and that as we traverse its rocky ridges we are walking upon a portion of the continent which was among the first to rear its head above the waters of the primeval ocean?

Some one will ask at once what is the ground for this belief? Well, in every part of the world, between land and sea, there is, where these come into contact, an easily recognizable belt, narrow or broad, which we call *the Beach*. It is composed of materials, gravel, sand or mud, derived by the ever restless action of waves and tides and currents from the adjacent land, varying in its coarseness with the degree of exposure and the greater or less force with which the agents of destruction are able to