



OUR STONY RECORD.

OLDER GEOLOGY OF RED RIVER AND ASSINIBOINE VALLEYS.

Dr. Bryce's Lecture Before the Historical Society.—Explanatory Diagrams.—Occurrence of Salt, Petroleum and Coal.—City Water Supply.

The Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba met on Thursday evening, November 26th, 1891, in the city council chamber, to listen to a lecture on "The Older Geology of the Red River and Assiniboine Valleys." The lecturer of the evening was Rev. Dr. Bryce, who said:

Last year the writer had the honor of laying before the Historical Society many facts connected with the "Surface Geology" of these valleys. To night it may serve a good purpose to bring before the society, with as few technical details as possible,

has not been a stranger. Milton hits off this tendency with keen sarcasm in his description of Mammon:—

"Mammon, the least erected spirit that fell From Heaven; for e'en in Heaven his look and thoughts

Were always downward bent, admiring more The riches of Heaven's pavement, trodden gold, Than aught divine, or holy else enjoyed In vision beatific; by him first Men are, and by his suggestion taught, Ransacked the centre, and, with impious hands, Riffled the bowels of their mother earth For treasures."



FIG. 1.—North America: The Original Laurentian Island.

the characters of the underlying rocks. Our object is to describe, not so much the mineral or palaeontological features of these rocks, as to give their general relation to the contour of our prairies, the nature of the soil, and to the economic products of the precious metals, building stone, salt, petroleum, coal, natural gas, and water. There is a craze in some quarters for diverting capital into mad speculations, and for organizing companies to ransack the rocks for hidden treasure. To this even Winnipeg in the past

There is of course another standpoint than that of Milton. We need to know the powers and resources of the good, new country in our possession, and we are bound as Western Canadians to make the most of our opportunities. At the same time we ought to examine and develop our land intelligently; and the geologist may often prevent useless expenditure and prick the bubble of wild speculation.

THE LAURENTIAN ISLAND.

Below the drift or soil, with which our former lecturer dealt, there are lime-