

haps all of the Laurentian area in Canada, as well as of considerable portions of adjoining areas. I think it the most reasonable conclusion that the whole of this part of the country was of a similar character to what, speaking generally, British Columbia is at the present day, but on a greater scale,—mountainous and rugged, with everywhere high peaks and deep valleys, with frequent plateaus, and with lines of summits so continuous and so connected as to form extended ranges of mountains,—and that, with a somewhat colder climate, individual glaciers occurred everywhere on these mountains, and in their descent carried with them *débris* and boulders to the valleys beneath. Some of these glaciers would, as in the Rocky Mountains now, be of comparatively short length, and their action on the rocks beneath them and on the fragments displaced would be correspondingly light; others would, as in Greenland at the present day, be on an immense scale, extending for very many miles, and be often of great thickness. A universal ice cap over the whole country seems to me an untenable hypothesis, whilst a general mountainous character, with high peaks and ranges, down which glaciers would flow, would explain the phenomena met with at the present day, which are properly ascribed to glacial action. Even at this later day, the whole Laurentian country to the north and south of the St. Lawrence is of this rugged, mountainous character, with indications, as at the Thousand Islands at the outlet of Lake Ontario, that at one time there was a much greater elevation than now. In fact, the whole inner country lying between the estuary of the St. Lawrence and Hudson Bay is described by explorers as being of an extremely mountainous character—broken, rugged and impassable, as if the subject of some exceptional convulsion in former ages.

There are some of the phenomena of glacial action in Canada which go far to show that there also have been, subsequent to, but perhaps before the close of, the glacial epoch, extensive areas of depression, more particularly along and south of the Middle and Lower St. Lawrence and up the Ottawa River, and, perhaps contemporaneously, in the lake