

Natural History, the results of that year being comprised in twelve scientific reports, besides that of the Director, which were published in two volumes of 1364 pages, in addition to the bulletins on Paleontology and Botany. The American Survey during the same year employed in the Geographical branch alone eighty-five assistants, in addition to the chiefs of the several divisions, of whom there were fifteen in connection with the outside or geological work proper, and twelve for the associated branches, among whom are many of the leading professors in the different universities, men most distinguished in their special lines of work. With such a command of men and money magnificent results may be confidently looked for, yet in the published volume for the year mentioned there are only four scientific reports, besides that of the Director, with twenty-four administrative reports, corresponding with the summary reports of the Canadian Survey, and describing only the season's operations as carried on by the different parties, but not giving the scientific results, the whole being comprised in a magnificently printed and illustrated volume of 710 pages. In addition to this, as in the Canadian Survey, bulletins containing special reports on the work of the various associated subjects were also published. Comparing results, then, in so far as these can be ascertained, it is evident that the Canadian Survey has continued to maintain the high standard of work which it has ever enjoyed from its commencement and is giving at least full value for the amount of money expended thereon.

But many persons have asked the question: Of what does the work of the Geological Survey consist? and what is the object of sending out these parties of exploration all over the Dominion? what practical benefit does the country receive from such explorations? Some even appear to consider the fitting out of the field parties each spring as something preparatory, on the part of the staff, to going on some grand pic-nic, in which all that the persons engaged have to do is to enjoy themselves in the most perfectly epicurean manner. Now, while to the scientific explorer who enters upon the work in hand with the proper amount of interest there must ever be a certain amount of enjoyment, and that often of a very high order, in the unravelling of the complicated problems which are presented in the study of the wrinkled face of old mother earth, there is very little of the pic-nic character ob-