

THE OLD FAMILY CRADLE.

Laid in the garret, where darkness and dust
Are the sole warden of many a trust,
Silently standing amid its compeers,
Mottled mementoes of many score years,
Shapeless and homely, a cast-aside thing,
Thus the old family cradle I sing.

Once with vermillion its coating was gay,
Now all its brightness is faded away;
Worn is the paint from the sides and the head,
There no soft coverlid longer is spread,
And the stiff rockers creak over the floor
Like a rheumatic, limb-weary and sore.
Yet there are thoughts full of goodness and grace
Brightening with beauty the homeliest face;—
Speak to us now of the years that are fled,
Changed are the living and peaceful the dead;
What are thy memories mournful and glad,
Family histories, mirthful or sad?

Once a young mother bent over thy side,
Fair, as a maiden, and blest, as a bride,
There were warm kisses and tears of delight,
And the kind angels looked pleased at the sight.
While the old cradle rocked gently away
Seeming in musical murmurs to say,
"To and fro, to and fro, little one, sleep,—
Angels their watch o'er thy cradle shall keep:
To and fro, to and fro, thus as we rock,
Softly and solemnly ticketh the clock,
And the swift moments, while hurrying by,
Lullaby, lullaby, sing as they fly."

But the light moments bear years on their wings,—
Summer and Autumn and Winter and Spring
Quickly succeeding, pass quickly away,
And the young parents are careworn and gray.
Children are gathered by table and fire,
Blessing and honor to mother and sire.

Still the old cradle rocks steadily there,
Still there are treasures to trust to its care.
He who its pillow in infancy prest,
Soothed by the song of a mother, to rest.
Now in his manhood stands proud at its side
Watching the sleeper with fatherly pride.
And the old cradle as lovingly still
Guards like a casket its jewel from ill.

Gone are the aged ones now to repose,
Sleep which nor dreaming nor weariness knows,—
Gone are the children who grew by their side
Far from the home of their childhood and wide.
And the old cradle, forsaken, forlorn,
To its long rest in the garret is borne.

Yet not forever its usefulness o'er,
In age it is summoned to service once more.
Another new-comer, bewildered, astray,
Would sleep in thy bosom its troubles away.
But alas for the love that its sorrows would share,
Alas! for the ceaseless and weariless care,
A guardian sterner is sought in thy room,
And the sleep of the cradle exchanged for the tomb.

Rest, then, old friend, in a quiet profound,
Untroubled not or startled by movement or sound.
Or if the wind, with its deep, mournful sigh,
Bring to thee memories long since gone by,
Softly as one who may murmur in sleep,
Rock in thy dreams, and thy solitude keep.

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SCIENCE.

The Metals in Canada. (1)

LEAD.

The Geological Survey report the occurrence of lead in many localities in Canada. The following extracts from Sir William

(1) Abridged from Messrs. Wilson and Robb's work, "The Metals in Canada," (Montreal, 1861), by the *Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada*.

Logan's Reports of Progress will conclusively show to any one at all acquainted with the subject, that rich and persistent deposits of lead may be looked for in the townships of Bedford and Lansdowne, counties of Frontenac and Leeds.

In the Report for 1858, pp. 48-50, he says under the head:

"*Galena*.—This ore of lead is another of the minerals that are to be looked for in connection with the limestones of the Laurentian series, but it is not yet determined whether it specially characterises one or more of the bands. None of it was met with in the calcareous exposures in the district of the Rouge; but I have been informed that several veins holding galena have recently been discovered in the township of Bedford, not very far removed from those lodes which have already been discovered by Mr. Murray, in the twenty-first lot; and near the line between the eighteen and nineteen lots of the eight range of the township."

In the Report for 1851-52, Mr. Murray makes mention of the occurrence, in the second lot of the eighth range of Lansdowne, of a vein of heavy-spar and calc-spar cutting rocks of the Laurentian series, and holding disseminated crystals of galena, which had been unsuccessfully tried as a lead mine. Subsequently to his visit to the locality, a lode was discovered on the third lot of the same range, from which specimens were obtained in 1855 for the Paris Exhibition.

A trial shaft was sunk on it to the depth, it was said, of fifty feet, and a sufficient quantity of ore obtained to pay the expenses of sinking. The specimens showed a thickness of between two and three inches of pure galena, associated with calc-spar. It was said that other lodes existed in the neighbourhood, but their position was kept secret.

"The bearings given by Mr. Murray to the three lodes examined by him in Bedford are N. 15 W., N. 32 W., and N. 85 W., the last being the course of the lode traced and tested farthest. The distance between the Bedford and Lansdowne lodes is not much over twenty miles; and considering the differences that may be allowed for the gentle windings which usually exist in the courses of metalliferous veins, it appears not at all improbable that the lodes of the two localities may be identical or belong to one group, the bearing of the two positions being about N. 68 W. and S. 68 E. of one another. If a line from the Bedford to the Lansdowne lodes were continued twenty-five miles farther, it would cross the St. Lawrence and strike Rossie in Lawrence County New York: where a group of well known veins of lead ore exists, some of which, though just now abandoned, are not supposed to be exhausted, and two of which are known at one period to have yielded a great quantity of ore.

"The rock cut by the lodes at Rossie is of the Laurentian series; but a line between Rossie and Lansdowne would intersect the outcrop of the Potsdam sandstone, which lies between Rossie and the St. Lawrence. It has been ascertained that a vein of lead ore cuts through this sandstone at Redwood, which would not be far from the position of the line to Lansdowne. It is thus not improbable that there is a group of lead ores running from Rossie to Bedford, and this metalliferous line appears well worthy the attention of explorers in search of lead ores. The dislocations in which the lodes exist are of course thus proved to be of more recent age than the Potsdam sandstone, but this by no means establishes that the older rock may not be the source of the metal."

Ramsay Lead Mine.—In 1853, Mr. Richardson ascertained the existence of a vein of galena on the third lot of the sixth range of Ramsay, in the county of Lanark. The rock which the vein intersects is an arenaceous limestone, the fossils of which prove it to belong to that division of the Lower Silurian series known as the Calcareous sandrock. Mining operations have been prosecuted with some success, and have established beyond a doubt the important facts that the galena occurs in true veins which may be depended on for persistence in depth, and that its quality is most excellent, producing eighty per cent. of metallic lead. "There appear," says Sir William Logan, "to be indications of other lodes with nearly the same bearing as the one opened at Ramsay, not far removed from it, and it may belong to a group which, running parallel with the Bedford and Rossie group, would be about forty miles from it to the north-east." (1)

Sir William in 1848 discovered traces of galena at Bay St. Paul, on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, about 90 miles below Quebec. Although in unworkable quantity, the mode of occurrence of the ore gave unmistakeable evidence of its being in a true vein; and, from the well known valuable characteristics of such deposits, this circumstance invests the discovery with some importance.

(1) Report of Progress for 1858, page 51.