

first rocky crust into several parts. These may be generally known as the Azoic Paleozoic, Mesozoic and Cenozoic. By the first, the *Azoic*, is known that portion as yet held to be devoid of organic remains. This has, however, by some been subdivided into two, the *Azoic* and *Eozoic*, from the discovery of certain structures which have been regarded by some authorities as of organic origin in certain portions of these earliest rocks, more especially of that peculiar so-called organism known as the Dawn Animal, or *Eozoon Canadense*, which has the honor of being regarded as our first known form of life. It is but fair, however, to state that the organic nature of this substance has been strongly combated by many scientific men, the great defender of its organic nature at present being Sir William Dawson, through whose efforts and researches it was first most prominently brought into notice, and who has devoted more time and close study to its history than probably any other person. Some, however, hold that in this Azoic time, or the Eozoic part of it, evidences of organic life are manifest in the presence of the beds of graphite or carbon, which are claimed to represent the early presence of vegetable matter in some form. The beds of iron ore are also regarded by some as indicating the presence of organic agencies as well as our deposits of Apatite. These, however, are all as yet subjects of controversy and will probably remain so for many years. The Azoic may be said to embrace two periods, the *Laurentian* and *Huronian*, and is followed by the *Paleozoic*, a time when organic life flourished everywhere over the world's surface, and so generally were the species distributed that precisely the same forms are found at points the most widely removed. The *Primary* or Paleozoic time embraces several periods, or systems—so-called, including the Cambrian of our nomenclature, or the Lower Silurian of earlier times, the Cambro-silurian or middle Silurian, the upper Silurian or Silurian proper, the Devonian, Carboniferous and Permian ; and forms the longest and probably the most important portion, in many ways, of the earth's history. The succeeding time, the secondary or Mesozoic, embraces the Triassic, Jurassic and the Cretaceous, while the Tertiary or Cenozoic includes the Eocene, Miocene and Pliocene. The closing period, the Post-tertiary, includes the Pleistocene, recent and prehistoric.