

REPORT OF PROGRESS.

To His Excellency the Right Honorable JAMES, EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.T., BARON BRUCE OF KINROSS AND OF TORRY, one of Her Majesty's Most Honorable Privy Council, Governor General of British North America, and Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief in and over the Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the Island of Prince Edward, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

MONTREAL, 1st *May*, 1853.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

I have the honor to submit to your Excellency a Report of the progress made in the Geological Survey of the Province, during the year which has just elapsed.

The exploration of my assistant, Mr. Murray, embraced the country lying between the township of Bedford, in what used to be called the Midland District, and the river Severn connecting Lake Simcoe with Georgian Bay; the object of it being to trace out the general outcrop of the lower fossiliferous rocks, along the more mountainous metamorphic group which comes from beneath them on the north, and to ascertain the nature of the economic materials associated with both, at moderate distances from their junction. The attention of Mr. Hunt has been bestowed upon the analyses of various minerals, mineral waters, ores and other substances collected on his own exploration, as well as on the explorations of Mr. Murray and myself; and his Report upon his labors, with that of Mr. Murray upon the results of his examination, is now transmitted to your Excellency.

The district which has been the subject of my own investigation, is that which lies on the north side of the St. Lawrence, between Montreal and Cape Tourmente below Quebec. The distribution of the fossiliferous rocks, and the economic materials accompanying them, have been the points chiefly attended to, but short excursions to gain facts illustrating the metamorphic series immediately supporting them, were made northwards in two or three places. The want of a good map of the seigniories, on a scale sufficiently large to permit the representation of the facts necessary to ensure a clear understanding of the structure of the district, has rendered the examination exceedingly laborious. The last edition of Mr. J. Bouchette's map is on too small a scale to be perfectly available, while that of Col. Bouchette, the only published one of the whole area, of which the scale (three miles to an inch) approaches the requisite measure, is too incomplete to be of much service. In some parts the latter is tolerably correct, but in the majority it cannot be at all recommended for accuracy. In the settled parts of the country, the roads of course afford the chief means of reaching the exposures of rock, and over large areas, roads which existed at the time the map was constructed, are not represented at all, and many of those which are represented (in so far as I could collect evidence) have never existed. In addition to this, a vast number of the roads over the whole region have been opened since the publication of the map. A good map of the environs of Quebec, on the scale of two miles to an inch, was published by Mr. J. Adams in 1822; it of course wants all the newer roads, and I was not so fortunate as to meet with a copy of it until the examina-