

II.

ON THE GEOLOGY OF

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS

AND ADJACENT COUNTRY.

BY

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The geological explorations which had been made previous to 1881 in the country between Lake Superior, on the one hand, and Lake Winnipeg and the valley of the Red River on the other, had been accomplished by following the numerous canoe-routes leading through it in different directions, and examining the shores of the lakes and rivers, as well as by making short journeys inland from their banks. The Canadian Pacific Railway now traverses this region and passes through large tracts which are not easily accessible by canoe. It was so far completed in 1881 as to admit of our following the line throughout and thus enabling us to ascertain many new facts in regard to the geological structure and the geographical distribution, in these parts, of the Laurentian and Huronian systems. The cuttings along the track afforded excellent opportunities for examining fresh sections of the rock.

Geological
examination of
the line of the
Canadian
Pacific R. R.

Before proceeding with a continuation of the geological exploration of the Lake of the Woods, which had been begun in previous years (See Reports for 1872 and 1873), a cursory examination was made of the railway track from English River to Cross Lake. This work was performed by Mr. Molson in the section between Wabigoon Lake and Rat Portage, and in the other sections by myself. The same gentleman explored the Wabigoon and part of the Eagle River, whilst I made a track-survey from Wabigoon Lake to Lake of the Woods by way of the Three-fork River, Eagle, Vermilion and Bell's Lakes. This was followed by a geological examination of the northern part of the Lake of the Woods and of Shoal Lake and Whitefish Bay, with track-surveys of the parts travelled over.

In going westward from English River along the track of the Cana- English River.