

most ancient known flora. But Gaspé was practically inaccessible to a naturalist, whose intervals of leisure never exceeded a week or two; and so this long-cherished wish remained ungratified until a month ago, when, armed with hammer and dredge, and other necessary implements for studying the rocks and the sea-bottom, I landed at Gaspé Basin from the steamer *Lady Head*, on a fine August evening, ready to commence work on the morrow. Only a week could be devoted to the task, but I was fortunate in having the assistance of Mr. Dougall, one of my students in natural history; and in securing the services of two very obliging and intelligent boatmen. So our work speeded well. We formed a large collection of fossil plants, which when added to those previously collected by the Geological Survey, will I trust serve to illustrate the Devonian flora of Canada, in a manner as yet unsurpassed by deposits of that age in any other country. The waters too yielded their treasures of sea-anemones, urchins, star-fishes, shells, and zoophytes, some of them new to me; and we formed for ourselves a somewhat distinct mental picture of Gaspé and its people. The more special scientific results of the expedition, I shall reserve for future occasions, and in the mean time design to give a slight sketch of the general features of the district, and some desultory observations which cannot well be placed under any distinct head.

The peninsula of Gaspé, the land's-end of Canada toward the east, presents within itself an epitome of several of the leading geological formations of the Province; and here as elsewhere, these impress with their own characters the surface and its capabilities. On that side which fronts the river St. Lawrence, it consists of an enormous thickness of shales and limestones, belonging to the upper part of the Lower Silurian series, and the lower part of the Upper Silurian. These beds, tilted in such a manner that they present their up-turned edges to the sea and dip inland, form long ranges of beetling cliffs running down to a narrow strip of beach, and affording no resting-place even for the fisherman, except where they have been cut down by streams, and present little coves and bays opening back into deep glens affording a view of great rolling wooded ridges that stand rank after rank behind the steep sea-cliff, though no doubt with many fine valleys between. At present this inland country appears little settled, but every cove and ravine along the shore is occupied by fishermen, who either permanently reside here or resort to this