

sidered to be of a geological nature, they form an important outline of the inquiry under consideration.

The whole of the shore, from Point Escuminac to the town of Chatham, is composed of the sandstones and conglomerates of the coal field. The rocks are elevated but a few feet above high water mark, and the fine settlements along the shore are almost level with the waters of the Gulph. The islands of Miramichi Bay are composed chiefly of sand, which has been thrown up by the waves and currents.

The most remarkable features of this part of the County are the evidences of a depression of the coast having taken place, within a comparatively recent period. In the vicinity of Bay des Vents, and Lower Bay des Vents, extensive peat bogs are seen at low water, reaching outwards under the sea, being buried beneath its waves. I examined this peat carefully, and found it to be of super-marine growth; how far these bogs extend beneath the Bay, and have been covered by beds of sand and gravel, cannot be readily ascertained; there is reason to believe, however, that an extensive area of low land has been submerged, and the higher portions of it are now scarcely above the tide level. These facts appear more extraordinary when compared with those which shew that the coast near Bathurst has been elevated; but they are the result of geological changes and catastrophes, to which the earth has been subject ever since it was created, and became a revolving mass in the heavens.

Between Newcastle and Black River, on both sides of the main stream, the sandstones appear in cliffs from fifteen to thirty feet in height; and the strata are nearly horizontal. The upper layers of the rock having been acted upon by the frost, are much fractured, and frequently split into thin lamina. Near the water level they have suffered less, and they often appear in broad compact masses, capable of affording good freestones of large dimension. The water is constantly wearing away the yielding rock, and singular grottos, with deep notches, have been worn out along the level of the Bay. Excellent freestones may be procured from these strata. The new Bank at Newcastle, and a number of buildings at Chatham and Douglas Town are built of these rocks. The freestones are readily quarried and cut; and buildings composed of them have a venerable European appearance. Messrs. Gilmour and Rankin and the Hon. Joseph Cunard have employed them in the erection of their excellent mills. These freestones form a valu-