

PAPER II.—SUPERFICIAL GEOLOGY OF THE VALLEY  
OF THE OTTAWA AND THE WAKEFIELD CAVE.

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TO-NIGHT I purpose occupying your attention for a short time by a consideration--first, of the superficial geology of this locality, and secondly, of the Wakefield Cave.

Few parts of the Dominion of Canada are more interesting and attractive, in a geological point, than the surrounding country, taking a view from any tower of the present Parliament Buildings. Here, Upper and Lower Canada of old are seen at once—merely separated by the Ottawa River in its course to the St. Lawrence. On the Hull side, the beautiful Laurentian Hills grace the scene, and in almost every other direction the country presents a level appearance, only occasionally interrupted by moderate and gentle undulations.

So far as the physical history of this country is concerned, it has been erroneously denominated the *New World*. By Agassiz, it is termed, "first-born among the continents, though so much later in culture and civilization than some of more recent birth." "Hers was the first dry land lifted out of the waters, hers the first shore washed by the ocean that enveloped all the earth beside; and while