

an economic point of view, the Laurentian Formation is essentially characterised by the vast beds of magnetic and specular iron ore that occur within it: full details of which are given in a preceding page. The formation is many thousands of feet in thickness, and it covers an area of 200,000 square miles—running from Labrador along the north shore of the St. Lawrence to the vicinity of Quebec, and throughout all the more northern and north-western portions of the Province, as shewn in the sketch-maps, figs. 154 and 243. By reference to the latter, it will be seen that in the district between Prescott and Kingston, a narrow belt of this formation crosses the St. Lawrence, and expands over a large extent of country, comprising the Adirondack region, in the State of New York. This belt forms a somewhat important feature in the geology of Western Canada. It will be alluded to again, in connection with this sketch, under the name of the “gneissoid belt of the Upper St. Lawrence.” The Huronian Formation which constitutes the higher division of the Azoic series, consists chiefly of green and greyish slate-conglomerates and other partially altered strata, interstratified with greenstone masses, and traversed by numerous trap dykes. It contains also many quartz veins, holding copper pyrites and other copper ores in workable quantities. The total thickness of the formation is probably not much under 20,000 feet. Its strata are chiefly developed along the north shore of Lake Huron (No. 2, in fig. 243), and in places on Lake Superior.

3. *Laurentide Mountains. North and South Basins of Canada.*—A high water-shed or range of mountainous country, averaging a height of from one to two thousand feet above the sea, but rising in places to nearly four thousand feet, traverses the greater portion of the Laurentian area, and forms at one part of its course the “Laurentide Mountains.” It divides the Province into two great basins or geological areas: known, respectively, as the North and South Basins.

4. *Great Northern Basin of Canada.*—The area occupied by this basin, lying to the north of the Laurentian water-shed, and sloping towards Hudson’s Bay, as regards its geological characters, is still comparatively unexplored. The formations known to occur within its limits, comprise the Laurentian and the Upper Silurian series. The Huronian rocks are thought to occur also, in the form of Chloritic schists, in the valley of Lake Temiscaming, but no traces of Lower Silurian strata have anywhere been met with. Hence, it is suggested by Sir William Logan, that, the Laurentide mountainous