

but one small rock in the North-east corner of Great Britain represented that island. The 42,200 square miles comprising the total area of Newfoundland, are made up chiefly of the oldest known geological formations, beginning with the Laurentian and ending with the Carboniferous. Not one of the higher or more recent Mesozoic systems, known to geologists, have any existence here, always excepting the superficial drift, chiefly made up of glacial debris, river-silt and ordinary clays, derived from disintegration of the rock surfaces. Much vegetable matter, in the form of peat, is found to occupy a large portion of the surface, especially over the less wooded areas of the interior.

The great Laurentian system, so largely developed in Canada and on the Labrador, occupies a very extensive portion of Newfoundland. The southern coast line of the island, from Bay d'Espoir to Cape Ray, presents one bold front, 150 miles in extent, consisting of granites, syenites, mica, schists, &c., all referable to this period. They extend inland for many miles, and then branching out from the base into several great tongues, stretch across the island, forming the chief elevated ridges of the interior. One of those tongues or belts, commencing at the head of Fortune Bay, strikes in a northeasterly direction and comes out to the shore again on the north side of Bonavista Bay, forming most of the coast line between the latter and Gander Bay, in the great bay of Notre Dame. It also constitutes nearly all the numerous outlying islands, rocks and reefs, lying off this portion of the coast. The Funk Islands, a group of small granitic rocks, forty miles from the land, form the extreme north-east outlyer of this tongue. A