

NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE, NEAR TORONTO, OF BOULDERS BELONGING TO THE CALCIFEROUS FORMATION.

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(Read before the Canadian Institute, December 16th, 1877.)

Amongst the numerous erratic boulders scattered on the surface of the country to the north and west of Toronto, there are, not unfrequently, some of a very hard bluish-gray rock, composed of rounded grains of quartz-sand imbedded in a calcareous cement. Through weathering, the calcareous portion of the exterior of these boulders is dissolved away, leaving a crust, of an inch or so in thickness, of a reddish-brown friable sandstone. As a rule, the boulders are rounded in figure and from eight inches to two feet in diameter. No traces of glacial striæ are present, and even had such been formed, they would most probably have been obliterated through the decay of the outer surface. The majority of these boulders are destitute of organic remains, but I have lately found some filled with the casts of *Ophileta compacta*: Salter. This shell is characteristic of the Calciferous formation, and as the material of the boulders is also identical in character with the rocks of that formation, and very distinct from any other known rock in this portion of Canada, it may be concluded that the non-fossiliferous, as well as the fossiliferous, boulders have been derived from the same source. The calciferous formation prevails in a very extensive area between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers in the eastern portion of this Province of Ontario, but it is not known with certainty to occur on the western side of the Laurentian spur crossing the St. Lawrence at the Thousand Isles. Thus the nearest localities from which the boulders in question could have been derived are about 200 miles distant, in a direction between the angles of N. 55 E. and N. 71 E. from Toronto. The boulders are found at levels of 350 to 450 feet above the sea, which is, if any thing, slightly higher than the present general level of the rock-beds from which they have been brought.