

rock of New York, and in Missouri, where it is the great metaliferous formation, alternates several times with a sandstone, constituting the Magnesian Limestone series, which in Missouri attains a thickness of 1300 feet. The same thing is observed to a less degree in Wisconsin and Iowa; throughout this region the higher beds of the Potsdam sandstone are often composed of rounded oolitic granules, and the beds of passage are frequently of such a character as to lead to the conclusion that they have been deposited from silica in solution, and are not mechanical sediments.* For a discussion of some facts with regard to the chemical origin of many silicious rocks, see Am. Journal of Science, (2) xviii. 381.

Evidences of disturbance during the period of its deposition are to be found in the brecciated beds, sometimes fifty feet in thickness, which occur in the Calciferous sandrock of the north-west, and are made up of the ruins of an earlier sandstone. In Missouri, the Birdseye and Black River limestones repose directly upon the Lower Magnesian limestone, while further north a sandstone intervenes, occupying the place of the Chazy limestone.

The Potsdam sandstone of the St. Lawrence valley, has for the most part the character of a littoral formation, being made up in great part of pure quartzose sand, and offering upon successive beds, ripple and wind marks, and the tracks of animals. Occasionally it includes beds of conglomerate, or as at Hemmingford, encloses large rounded fragments of green and black shale; it also exhibits calcareous beds apparently marking the passage to the succeeding formation, which although called a Calciferous sandrock, is for the most part here, as in the west, a magnesian limestone, often geodiferous, and including calcite, pearl spar, gypsum, barytes and quartz. Sir William Logan had already shown that the fauna of the Potsdam and Calciferous in Canada are apparently identical, (Can. Naturalist June 1860, Am. Jour. Sci. [2] xxxi. 18), and Mr. Hall has arrived at the same conclusion with regard to the more extended fauna of these formations in the valley of the Mississippi, so that these two may be regarded as forming but one group. While in the west *Dikellocephalus* occurs both in the lower sandstones and the magnesian limestones, *Conocephalus minutus*, found in the Potsdam on Lake Champlain, and identified by Mr. Billings, has lately been

* See Mr. Hall's Introduction, to which we are indebted for many of these facts regarding the formations of the west, and also the Reports of the Geological Survey of Missouri.