

## The Rockwood Review.

innumerable spots in that district of what are called "Moraines," that is collections of boulders of varying size, and of different varieties of rock, often imbedded and enveloped in loamy alluvium in many particulars, forcibly bringing to mind processes that are now going on, and witnessed and described by intelligent and scientific observers, in many Alpine countries both of the old and new Continent.

The plateaus of tillable soil seem to have been formed by the attrition and pulverization of the granitic or of similar rocks, that form the crests of the Laurentian hills, often five or six miles apart in many townships. And, compared with the more thorough levelling, and abundant distribution of fertile soil in southern Ontario, the result of the glaciation has proved less beneficial to agricultural interests or capabilities; and it seems to a casual observer, that the grinding of the the mighty ice sheets had been too soon arrested when their work had been only half done.

And in many other parts of the world besides Muskoka, a soil formed chiefly of granitic debris is of too silicious a nature for a high degree of fertility, and there being a marked paucity of oak timber in these northern districts, is thought to indicate the lack of calcareous or lime elements in the constituents of the soil in this Canadian Switzerland.

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### GRANDFATHER'S CORNER.

#### KINGSTON EIGHTY YEARS AGO.

While it may be a sad fact that some few—very few—newspapers do not always tell the whole truth, it must be promptly and unhesitatingly conceded that there is no source from which can be obtained more reliable history of "the times" than the columns of the ordinary local journal. If the editorials do not furnish it, the local items, and news paragraphs, and advertisements do, and to the reporter and compositor of to-day, the historian writing at the end of the coming century, will be deeply indebted for his pen pictures of "our forefathers," and their doings. The old chroniclers did their part in the past, but they wrote without immediate supervision, and when their words found their way to a limited public the opportunity for the refutation of errors was gone. And so with voluminous Court records, correspondence, and the other means still left to us, by which we know one side, at least, of the actions and thoughts of our ancestors. But while availing ourselves of such help as they afford, we feel that until the days of the newspaper, we had no thoroughly trustworthy account of the world's progress and its annals. There are even two sides of the shield exposed to view, and through the eyes of rival newspaper men we can clearly see them if we care to look. It is unfortunate that they do not cover a larger portion of the doings of mankind, but for what they have been able to do, and have well done, we have good reason to be thankful. An illustration of the value of the old newspaper may be found in a bound volume containing many issues of "The Kingston Gazette," published during 1815, 1816, 1817 and 1818, and which is now in the Parlia-