

Cape Breton was submerged, and the waters of the ocean dashed up against the sides of the Cobequids and the highlands of Pictou, Antigonish, and the island of Cape Breton, and swept around the Cobequids as far south at least as the County of Halifax, perhaps further. The climate was tropical. Ferns and tree ferns, giant club mosses, and curious reptiles abounded. Tremendous tropical freshets tore down the mountain sides and laid in the sea the beds of sandstone, and shales, covered up the coral reefs and banks with shell-fish, filled lagoons and lakes with deported vegetation, and covered up now and again peat swamps with fathoms of vegetable matter, forming the coal producing basins of to-day. The islands and highlands worn away by the carboniferous seas were mostly bounded by

DEVONIAN AND SILURIAN

rocks, the relics of still older seashores which flanked the Cobequids, then a newly-formed range of mountains, and the highlands generally north of a line drawn from the region of the Annapolis Basin to Chedabucto Bay, near Canso. As in the Carboniferous, we find a special development of limestones, marbles, gypsum and alabaster, as well as coal and several other minerals, in the Devonian and Silurian we find the special development of iron deposits, as at Londonderry, Nictau, Torbrook, East River (Pictou), and so forth.

THE CAMBRIAN.

South of the line from Chedabucto Bay to the Annapolis Basin, the oldest rock found to a great extent in the foundation of the province occupies the surface. If it was submerged and covered with the deposits of the periods already mentioned, all such deposits have been thoroughly scoured off into the Atlantic, except what was left upon it during the Pleistocene; and extensive regions bear little else than stones and great boulders on top of the barren rock. But it is the region of gold. Its strata, several thousand feet thick, rose into great wrinkles or folds parallel to the general folding—no less than eight between the mouth of Halifax harbour and Mount Uniacke in Hants. But glacial action planed them off level, so that in the middle line of each fold, strata, hundreds and even thousands of feet deep in other places, come to the surface. The most of our gold mines are found in the proximity of these anticlines, as they are called. But there was