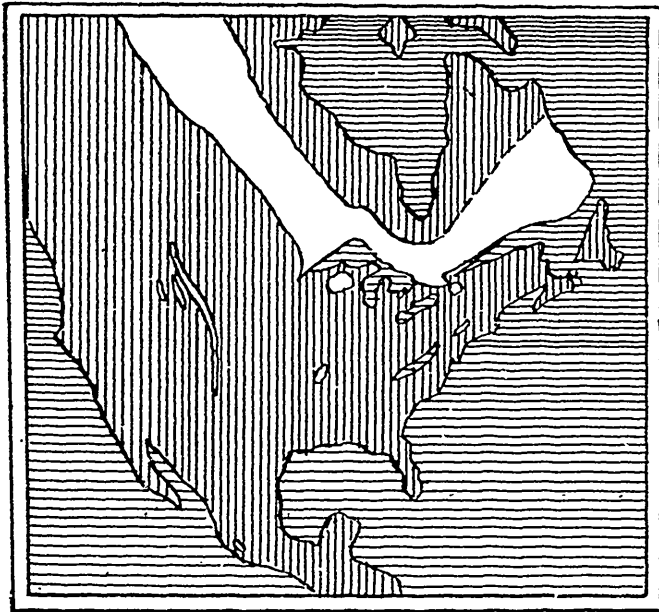


# THE PHYSICAL GROWTH OF CANADA.

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As in the political history of Canada one can trace the growth of the country as a political reality from the two provinces of old Canada to its present state of expansion, so in its physical history the Dominion exhibits a like enlargement. As the two provinces drew to themselves, first, accretions from the southeast, and then added the great domain of the west, so in the earliest geological ages we find an almost continental area in the north as the nucleus to which additions were made on the southeast and the southwest, until a large extent of land was rescued from the inroads of the sea.



Sketch Map of North America (after Dana), showing the "V"-shaped area of Laurentian rocks; this is unshaded. Horizontal lines represent the sea and lakes; vertical lines, the portion of the continent submerged in Laurentian and Huronian times.

The great physiographic features of Canada are the following: 1st, The continental nucleus of the northeast; 2nd, The low plain that surrounds it; 3rd, The high plain sloping up to the foot of the Rocky Mountains; 4th, The corrugated region of the Atlantic Slope; 5th, The corresponding mountain region of the Pacific Slope.