

Canada, accompanied by Sir James Kempt, Governor of the Province, turning the first sod. Owing, however, to gross mismanagement and extravagance, the undertaking failed—and those who had embarked their capital, under a Provincial guarantee, securing the interest for a certain number of years, unfortunately lost their all, the object is a desirable one, and had the project succeeded, must have conferred lasting benefit on the Province, as it would have substituted a short, secure and direct route, for a circuitous and dangerous navigation.

Directly opposite the harbour of St. John, in the Bay of Fundy, into which the river of that name discharges itself, is Digby Gut in Nova Scotia, an opening which penetrates the range of mountains that skirt the coast. This has evidently been formed by some convulsion of nature, and through this channel the waters of the Bay of Fundy penetrate into Annapolis Basin, and entering the river of that name, flow some distance into the interior, through a delightful and fertile country, backing up the river, and overflowing those portions of the adjacent land which are not protected by dykes.

The coast on both sides of the Bay of Fundy is rocky and precipitous. That of Nova Scotia is formed by a continuous range of mountains, called the north mountains, which terminate at Cape Blomidon, or Blommedown, as it is called, owing to the frequent and heavy gusts of wind that rush down its abrupt declivity. The cape in itself is an object of interest to the scientific and curious, as during the thawing of the frost in spring its steep sides crumble down, depositing at its base abundance of the finest agate, amethysts and other productions of the mineral kingdom, of great beauty and variety. Amethysts are also found about Parrsboro', on the opposite shore; and on the eastern side of Chegnecto Bay, near Amherst, are petrified tropical trees, standing or lying where they once flourished in their native luxuriance and foliage.

Within the north mountains in Nova Scotia is a highly fertile and well cultivated country—the garden of the Province, called Cornwallis—to which I shall advert when I enter more into detail,—extending from Cape Blomidon to the Gut of Annapolis, to the westward of which, as you approach that place, are the Aylesford Plains, where the late Bishop of Nova Scotia had his country residence, and where Sir Charles Lyell thinks there are indications of gold. It is a sandy tract, over which the post road from Halifax passes, which has evidently been the bottom of a former lake, of which Annapolis

Basin formed a part, until the pent up waters pressing upon a weaker point, and probably aided in their attempt to escape by some convulsion of nature, dashed through the opening just formed into the Bay of Fundy, and were ultimately lost in the great Atlantic. As an evidence in proof of this, the bottom outside Digby Gut is composed of masses of broken rock, or what is called debris.

An equally marked change is observable on the opposite coast, at the mouth of the St. John River, which has doubtless changed its original course; the marsh in the rear of the city having evidently been its former bed. When this occurred, it seems impossible to discover. In 1663 there happened in Canada a remarkable series of earthquakes, extending over a period of six months, which were felt from Gaspé, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to Montreal—one hundred and eighty miles above Quebec, and over an area of six hundred miles in length, and three hundred in breadth, by which one hundred and eighty thousand square miles were convulsed at the same moment. From a MSS. in the Jesuits' College at Quebec, we learn that "the hills were torn up from their foundations, lakes appeared where previously none existed, mountains were overthrown, and falls and rapids were changed into gentle streams, and gentle streams into falls and rapids."

At the period when this event happened, Europeans were but little acquainted with the portion of the American continent of which I am speaking. It may have been that at this time the event occurred by which the waters of the St. John formed their present outlet, and those of the inland fresh water sea of Nova Scotia burst through the confines that had hitherto restrained it. But the probability is, that it took place at some period more remote, as the French at a very early date had established themselves in that vicinity, and their writers, I believe, make no mention of the occurrence of so extraordinary an event.

At present, the River St. John discharges itself at an opening called the "Falls," on the side opposite the city, and possesses a peculiarity of which no other can boast; the fall of water being inland during part of the flood tide, and outwards during the ebb; that is, there are alternately falls of water descending in opposite directions. This is caused by a ledge of rock that occupies the centre of the channel, which has but a few feet of water over it at half tide. The result is, the waters of the Bay of Fundy, which there rise about forty feet during the latter