

Carboniferous or Devonian horizon. The existence of true Triassic beds, occupying as they do extremely limited areas on the coast, and not readily distinguished from associated Carboniferous strata, do not appear to have been known to him. The accompanying traps, with those of Grand Manan, are not, in the maps of either author, distinguished from other eruptives or assigned to any definite period.

Upon the whole, the map of Dr. Robb, though confessedly based upon that of Dr. Gesner, shows the results of extensive original observation and reflection, and though in some instances, as stated, less correct in its representations than the former, shows a decided advance in the direction of sound views and more exact limitations. It was the first published geological map of New Brunswick, and, so far as this Province was concerned, was reproduced, without essential change, in that accompanying the first edition of the "Acadian Geology" of Sir William Dawson.

Another, among the comparatively few instances in which Dr. Robb gave public expression to his views upon geological subjects, was in connection with the celebrated controversy as to the nature and origin of the mineral *Albertite*. The question having arisen as to whether this was to be regarded as coal or asphalt, or a variety of either, a question involving, in connection with the then existing mining laws, the ownership of a property of enormous value, experts were brought forward, in several instances from considerable distances, the consideration of whose testimony made the trial a very lengthy one, at the same time that it tended to extend very greatly the knowledge of the class of substances of which *Albertite* may be regarded as the type. On the one hand Dr. Chas. T. Jackson, of Boston, and his associates, maintained that the mineral was a true coal, while Prof. Richard C. Taylor, in association with Dr. Robb, asserted that it was either asphalt or a variety of asphalt. The published deposition of Prof. Taylor, on behalf of Dr. Gesner, the claimant, contains many interesting observations on the geology of the vicinity of Hillsborough, as well as regards the peculiarities of the *Albertite* deposit, all of which he states were made in company with Dr. Robb.

The final decision of the jury hinged, by the direction of the judge, simply upon the question whether *Albertite* was a *mineral* or not, and, there being no real doubt upon this point, was given in favor of the defendants. It is, however, interesting to observe that, as regards the real nature and origin of the material, the views of Taylor and