

tion is satisfactorily settled, it would be unsafe to decide positively on the first. Sir W. Logan speaks cautiously, therefore, when he says:—"The source of the gold *appears* to be the crystalline schists of the Notre Dame range, and the materials derived from their disintegration not only constitute the superficial material among the hills of this range, but are spread over a considerable area to the south of them." In the report for 1852, Sir William attempts also to define the geological position of the auriferous drift: he supposes it to be of greater antiquity than the drifts occupying the valley of the St. Lawrence, which contains remains of the whale, seal and two species of fish. The highest point at which this drift occurs is in the Montreal mountain, at 470 feet above the sea level, whereas the lowest point of the surface of the Chaudière drift is 800 feet. No traces of organic remains have been discovered in the Chaudière drift.

Whether quartz be the original matrix of all gold or not, a good deal of the large gold on the Chaudière is found with more or less quartz adhering to it, and several specimens from placer-deposits are almost embedded in this rock: and that although no vein yielding such large gold has yet been opened. The same difficulties exist to some extent in accounting for the aquaeus distribution of the precious metal on the abrasian theory here as elsewhere. Yet the agency of water in accumulating the gold at all those spots where an unusual quantity has been found is very apparent. At the top of the Des Plantes fall, and at Rodrigue's location, a high ledge of harder rock than the slate which it intersects crosses the river, forming just such a barrier against the action of the water upon gold, as is the bar in the cradle or the tie.

But though no very productive gold-bearing vein has been opened, it is true that in several of the many veins which cut the slate, specks of visible gold have been discovered, and in a few instances, very pretty specimens have been taken out; and when all the veins have been tested, it will doubtless be found that many are auriferous; perhaps so richly charged, though nothing is now