

complicated structure of the rock masses which compose the mountain ranges, and the faulted, crumpled and widely different character of much of the strata on either side have given rise to a great diversity of opinion regarding their true position in the geological scale. In Canada these problems have been discussed mostly under the head of the Quebec group, while in the adjoining States the fight has been carried on under the name of the Taconic controversy.

The earliest expressed views of Sir Wm. Logan, in 1847, assumed that the age of the mountain ridges of the Eastern Townships was probably that of the Hudson River division of the New York geologists. Although the rocks were for the most part in a highly crystalline condition, they were supposed to be the metamorphic equivalents of the comparatively unaltered and frequently highly fossiliferous sediments which occupied the greater part of the country between their slopes and the St. Lawrence. All traces of these fossils were held to be eliminated by the process of metamorphism to which the strata had been subjected, and by which, also, the shales and sandstones were converted into highly crystalline schists and chlorite rocks.

This view as to the metamorphism of the fossiliferous strata of the south side of the river was maintained by most workers in this field for nearly twenty-five years, although the opinion formerly expressed as to the Hudson River age had been modified in 1860 by Sir Wm. Logan, owing to the discovery of a great series of fossils in the rocks about Point Lévis and at other points which clearly indicated that their true position was at the bottom of the Cambro-Silurian system rather than at the top as had so long been supposed. As early, however, as 1862, Mr. Thomas Macfarlane compared the crystalline schists and associated rocks of the Eastern Townships with the upper part of the primitive schist formation of Norway, and also with the copper-bearing series of Lake Superior. The resemblance of the two series was also pointed out by Sir Wm. Logan, in the *Geology of Canada*, 1863. The Huronian aspect and probable age of these crystalline rocks was first recognized and publicly stated by Dr. Hunt, in 1871, and later, in 1877, by Dr. Selwyn, while in the late report on this portion of Quebec by the writer, 1896, these rocks are described under the general term Pre-Cambrian, by which is meant that they constitute a group unconformably beneath