

rocks are also found in detached areas of greater or less extent on the shores of Lake Superior.

In an admirable sketch of the Geology of Canada, emanating from the geological commission, and published at Paris, in 1856, we find the following notice of the Huronian rocks:—

“This Huronian formation is known for a distance of 150 leagues upon Lakes Huron and Superior, and everywhere offers metalliferous veins, which have as yet been very little explored. It cannot, however, be doubted that this region contains metallic deposits, which will one day become sources of great wealth to Canada.

I cannot leave the general description of the Laurentian rocks without quoting the testimony of Mr. Hunt, the distinguished chemist of the survey:—

“Another interesting investigation has been that of the Laurentides. This mountainous region, stretching from the Gulf, west to Lake Huron, is composed of the oldest known rocks, not only of North America, but of the Globe. On this continent, they are so far as yet known confined to British America, except a prolongation into northern New York, and perhaps some exposures west of the Mississippi, while in the old world they have been recognised only in Scandinavia, Finland and northern Russia, and perhaps in the north of Scotland. These rocks have never hitherto been carefully investigated, and a partial examination in the State of New York, had led an American Geologist to regard them as of igneous origin, and to look upon the crystalline limestones and hypersthene rocks, with their associated iron ores, as like intrusive. The researches of our Survey have shown that these antique portions of the earth's crust are, not less than the rocks of the Eastern Townships, metamorphic sedimentary deposits, and indicate the existence at the remote epoch of their formation, of Physical and chemical conditions similar to those which have accompanied all the succeeding geological periods.”

#### ON THE IRON ORES OF CANADA.

Coal and iron are universally acknowledged to be the most important necessities to civilization and material wealth among nations not exclusively agricultural or pastoral. In Canada we have no coal, that is an established fact; in the United States, as well as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, there is an abundance of coal. It is true that everywhere in the mineral region of Canada forest trees exist in sufficient abundance to make charcoal for smelting purposes for many years to come; and in this we may perhaps find some consolation for the apparently unfortunate absence of coal. But let us glance at the profusions of iron ore which is now capable of being won from Lake Huron to Gaspe; and we shall find much in the spectacle to encourage us to hope that some efforts will be made to secure easy means of obtaining abundance of some kind of fuel, either of home manufacture or foreign importation for smelting Canadian ores on Canadian soil, and if not that we may ere long see our own ores acquiring their true value as an article of export to the coal regions of the United States.

The chief iron deposits in this country, of the kind called ‘Magnetic iron ore,’ occur in the townships of Belmont, Marmora, and Madoc, about 26 miles from Belleville, or in a direct line about 50 miles from Port Hope, and 32 or 33 from Peterborough, which is now connected with the shores of