

then represented Montreal Mountain at an elevation of 400 feet above the lower levels of the city, and in a wide sea which then covered all the plain of the lower St. Lawrence.

The deposit in which the remains occurred is no doubt the equivalent of the Saxicava sand and gravel, and was probably a beach or bank near the base of the Laurentian hills, forming the west side of a bay which then occupied the Silurian country between the Laurentian hills north of the Ottawa, and those extending southward toward the Thousand Islands, and which opened into a wide extension of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, reaching to the hills of Eastern Canada and New England, and westward, perhaps, to the Niagara escarpment at the head of Lake Ontario. Such a sea might well be frequented by whales in the summer season, and individuals might occasionally be stranded on shallows or driven ashore by gales or by the pressure of floating ice.

The bones secured consist of two vertebrae and a fragment of another with a portion of a rib, and others are stated to have been found. They are in good preservation but have become white and brittle through the loss of their animal matter. On comparison with such remains of whales as exist in the Peter Redpath Museum, and with the figures and descriptions of other species, I have little doubt that they belong to the Humpback whale, *Megaptera longimana* of Gray, *Balaena boops* of Fabricius, a species still common in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and which extends its range some distance up the River, and is more disposed than most others of the large whales to haunt inland waters, and to approach the shores. I have seen it as far up the river as the mouth of the Saguenay, and there is reason to believe that occasionally it runs up much further. It is a species well known to the Gaspé whalers and often captured by them. Of course with so little material it is not possible to be absolutely certain as to the species, but I think it may safely be referred to that above named. The larger of the two vertebrae, a lumbar one, has the centrum eleven inches in transverse diameter and is seven inches in length. The smaller, a dorsal, is ten inches in its greater diameter and four in length. Through the kindness of Mr. Baker, the specimens have been deposited in the Peter Redpath Museum of McGill University.

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