

and minerals, of mineral waters and of soils, while he devoted a large amount of attention to the structure and composition, at that time so little known, of the ancient crystalline rocks of the Ottawa Valley and the Great Lakes; in unravelling the stratigraphical intricacies of which Logan and his assistant Murray were at the same time actively and most successfully occupied. He thus had an important share in the great work of instituting the Laurentian and Huronian Systems of Geology, and in systematising our knowledge of the oldest rocks of Canada and of the world. This work he afterwards followed up independently, in the development of the Norian, Montalban, Taconian and Kenewian systems, in which he included various groups of ancient rocks between the Laurentian and the Cambrian; and though some of these groups may be regarded as still in dispute, there can be no question of the great scientific value of Hunt's studies of them and of the new facts which he contributed to their discussion.

While connected with the Geological Survey, Hunt willingly aided in the drudgery of literary work and administration, for many parts of which his early culture and extensive range of reading and knowledge well fitted him.

At this time also he conceived and published in a succession of papers those wide views on Chemical and general Geology, which were embodied in his greater works, and more especially in his *Mineral Physiology and Physiography* (1886), in which he discusses with a power and range of knowledge rarely equalled the original condition of our planet, and the genesis of its more ancient rocks, as well as the processes of decomposition, recomposition and metamorphosis to which they have been subjected. This great and eminently suggestive work deserves the careful study of all concerned in Petrography or Physical Geology, who whether or not they may agree with all its conclusions, will find very much to instruct and to stimulate and guide thought and investigation. This work alone, with the earlier *Essays on Chemical Geology*, would be sufficient to form the basis of a great reputation, and must retain its place as