

rocks, and it involves no depreciation of the geologists above-mentioned, to say that the different conclusions at which they have arrived, depend very much on the different degrees of importance which they have attached to the various kinds of evidence accessible.

One word, before closing, respecting names. These are of little importance in themselves, but it is of consequence that they should not be needlessly changed, and that they should not be misapplied.

The name "Quebec Group," introduced by Sir William Logan, should be retained for that peculiar development of the rocks of the second fauna, eminently exposed and accessible in the vicinity of Quebec, to whatever extent its extensions east and west may be circumscribed; and whatever value may be attached to the local subdivisions into Levis, Lauzon and Sillery. On the one hand, the use of one of these terms, Levis, for the whole, leads to misconception; and the absurdity of the term "Canadian" (applied in one widely-known text book to the rocks of this age) becomes apparent when we see it made correlative with a purely local name like "Trenton," and when we consider that Canada is a region greater than the United States of America, and with equally varied geological structure.

The more recent developments in the geology of North America require, as Dr. Hunt and Mr. Selwyn have urged, that the Cambrian system should be recognized as a group altogether distinct from the Silurian; and whatever views as to the use of these names may ultimately prevail in England, for us the dividing line between the Cambrian and the Siluro-Cambrian or Lower Silurian, unquestionably comes about the horizon of the Potsdam. As to the formations older than the Cambrian, I am disposed to regard the Montalban and Taconian of Dr. Hunt as representing definite groups of rocks, which may however eventually prove to belong to the base of the Cambrian, with which equivalent strata in the Maritime Provinces of Canada seem to be associated. The Huronian series of Logan represents another great fact in the geology of North America, namely a period of immense igneous ejection and disturbance intervening between the Laurentian and the Cambrian. In the typical Huronian area of Lake Huron it unquestionably rests unconformably on the Laurentian, and is itself overlaid by rocks of Cambrian or still greater age. It has precisely the same mineral characters