

St. John River, to which this is tributary; and it appears probable that the valley of the St. John, presenting a continuation of the line of valleys, will be found to display the same relation to the stratification as that portion of the depression to the south-west already mentioned. Between the St. Francis and the Chaudière, are the Bécancour, and the east and west branches of the Nicolet. These take their rise towards the south-east side of the mountainous belt of country. The course of the two Nicolets is in general transverse to the measures, more directly so in those parts which flow among the mountains; that of the Bécancour is more irregular, being sometimes with and sometimes transverse to the strata for long stretches. The main source is about midway between the Chaudière and the St. Francis, but on leaving the hilly tract, the stream approaches to within twenty miles of the former, while its mouth is not much over the same distance below the latter.

These various tributaries of the St. Lawrence and their ramifications, by which the district is very abundantly watered, often spread out into small but beautiful lakes among the highlands, giving, in association with mountain peaks, great picturesqueness to the scenery. This is particularly the case towards the south-western parts, where these lakes so bespangle the country that in one panoramic view from the summit of Orford Mountain, estimated at 4050 feet above the St. Lawrence, no less than eighteen of them can be counted, emptying into the Yamaska and Richelieu on the one hand, and the St. Francis on the other. The largest of these is Lake Memphramagog, which has a length of about twenty-five miles, by a breadth generally under one mile, but sometimes reaching two; it lies partly among the mountains and partly in the valley beyond, which obliquely crosses the upper extremity, and in one place the lake approaches to within six miles of Stanstead Plains. Each branch of the Nicolet is supplied with its lake among the mountains, the western in the Township of Tingwick, the eastern in the Augmentation of Ham, the position of each having the same relation, the one as the other, to the rocks of the district. The Bécancour displays a very beautiful chain of

lakes in the Townships of Inverness, Halifax, and Ireland; while others, of a similar size, on the north-west line of Wolfestown, appear at the sources of the stream, situated similarly in geological regard as those of the Nicolets.—Several of these, with the addition of others, are taken in at one view from the summit of the White Mountain, a lofty peak near the division line between the Townships of Stuart and Nelson; but two of the most conspicuous the view comprehends, are Lake St. Francis and Aylmer, which, being expansions of the upper part of the St. Francis, are not among the mountains.

The plains on the north-west and the vale on the south-east of the mountain belt constitute two valuable tracts of country, of great agricultural capabilities. The soil of the former, though in some places light, is for the most part a strong calcareous clay, supporting, in its wild state, a predominating growth of soft wood, but when cleared, well suited to yield abundant crops of excellent wheat, for which the seigniorial farms along the St. Lawrence were celebrated before the practice of an inferior system of husbandry had caused exhaustion, and the Hessian fly had committed the devastating ravages which have almost wholly deprived the Lower Province of a wheat harvest for the last eight or nine years. The soil of the south-eastern vale is, with many exceptions, generally a gravelly loam, seldom deficient in calcareous quality, and often very ferruginous; its timber is chiefly hardwood. It is well adapted for wheat; but the distance of the district from a market has turned the attention of its cultivators almost exclusively to the rearing of cattle, and its produce in hay and grass is uncommonly abundant. The intermediate mountain country is possessed of many fertile subordinate valleys, some of which are of considerable breadth; many of the mountains are round-topped elevations of very moderate height, not deficient in soil: hill and dale are in a majority of cases clothed with hardwood, and when cleared have given some excellent farms.

The level surface of the plains on the north-west affords facilities for rail or plank roads in almost any direction, but the usual communications at present existing, though they give easy