

may not unreasonably be supposed to mark the sites of the Laurentian volcanoes, while the bedded labradoritic gneisses and other associated strata may with equal probability represent the eruptive rocks—lava-flows, etc.—which emanated from them, and were locally interbedded with the ordinary sediments of the period, as rocks of similar origin and composition certainly were in the Huronian and in all later geological ages, a fact which has been singularly overlooked or ignored by most writers on American geology.

At present we have in Canada no evidence which would warrant us in making more than two great divisions in the Archaean crystalline rocks. In many parts, especially in the eastern provinces, it has been found impossible to define even these clearly. Rocks of typical Laurentian character are there so intimately associated with others of equally typical Huronian characters, and in such constant alternations, that in mapping them they could not be separated, and are therefore all classed as Archaean or Pre-Cambrian.*

* For details respecting these Pre-Cambrian rocks, see Reports Geological Survey of Canada, 1879-80 and 1882-83, where they have been fully described by Mr. Fletcher.