

innocent of any knowledge of the subject under discussion, and of the reasons why an hypothesis of this kind should be considered necessary. It is surprising how many writers on glacial questions there are who do not seem to know that a moving glacier, like running water, cannot flow higher than its source. According to the views of these scientists there would appear to be no difficulty in ice flowing from the Laurentides, which are only 1,500 to 2,000 feet high, over the north-east Appalachians 2,500 to 5,000 feet high or more. The hypothesis of a greater elevation and a vast sheet of ice in the Laurentian region has, of course, been advanced, but this does not satisfy the conditions of the problem, in fact it is merely one hypothesis brought forward in support of another. If we admit the principle of oscillations at all, is it not just as reasonable to assume that these took place in the Appalachians as in the Laurentides? To suppose the former to have been a stable region in the glacial period, while the latter was rising and falling, as has been done by the advocates of great glaciers, does not seem probable, and moreover, the evidence adduced in support of such a condition of things is of little or no value. But the limits of this note will not permit me to go into further details at present. I may remark, however, that in my official work, while broaching several hypotheses, I have been conservative; and in regard to the glaciation of the St. Lawrence valley, I have taken existing levels as those which may, after all, have obtained in the early part of the Pleistocene period. These, I found sufficient, at all events, to enable me to explain the striation and transport of boulders in south-eastern Quebec up to the international boundary.

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