

and near the joint corners of Westbury, Stoke, Eaton, and Ascott, as well as in this last township near Sherbrooke.

It is not supposed that the limits of the auriferous district have been ascertained, but that it very probably extends much farther to the north-east, and attains the valley of the river St. John, while to the south-west it is known to reach Vermont, and to be traceable at intervals through the United States, even, it is said, as far as Mexico. In its breadth, however, it does not appear to cross the range of mountains with which it runs parallel, and no traces of it have been met with on their north-western flank. The deposit in which the gold occurs is part of an ancient drift, probably marine, and supposed to be of higher antiquity than that which, from the extent to which it occupies the valley of the St. Lawrence and some of its tributaries, Mr. Désor, who has recently bestowed much attention on the detrital deposits of North America, is disposed to give the name of Lawrencian. In this, alluded to in various Reports as tertiary and post-tertiary, the remains of whales, seals, and two species of fish, the capeling and the lump-sucker, and many marine shells of those species still inhabiting the Gulf of St. Lawrence, are found. These shells on the Mountain of Montreal attain a height of about 470 feet above the tide level in Lake St. Peter, which is the greatest altitude known to me; none of the remains have yet been found in the Canadian gold drift, and as this appears in its lowest undisturbed parts to be at a height of about 500 feet above the sea, it is probable what is now exposed of it, had emerged from the ocean before the Lawrencian drift was placed, while in lower levels it would be covered up by it.

In the localities in which the gold occurs, the coarser materials of the drift are made up in a large degree of the debris of rocks similar to the clay slates and interstratified grey sandstones on which it rests, but these are accompanied by fragments and pebbles of fine conglomerate, talcose slate, and serpentine, which with magnetic, specular, chromic and titaniferous iron (none of them absent when the gold is present) are derived from the mountain range, bounding it on the north-west;