

read elsewhere, as accounts for its formation, and for the causes and progress of its decay, and as suggests means for its preservation.

York harbour is an elliptical bason of an area of eight or nine square miles, formed by a long sandy peninsula stretching from the point of land east of Asbridge's Bay, in a S. S. W. direction to a point abreast of the present Fort, from which it is about two miles distant, and upon it is a Light-House ; thence it stretches towards the shore N. N. W. about three quarters of a mile, then dips under water, continuing in the same direction, carrying on it from two to three feet water, until within about 1,500 feet of the shore ; it then breaks off, dropping suddenly down from the spot where the buoy is laid, to thirteen feet, soon deepening to fourteen and a half, the deepest bed of the channel, which is mud. Here ends the island sand. The channel then gradually shoals towards the shore ; at 13 feet you strike rock, and 700 feet from the shore you have nine feet water, leaving a channel from that depth out to the buoy about 815 feet wide.

I shall now state, as briefly as possible, the theory of the formation of the port, and commence by assuming as a fact, that Lake Ontario came to its present level, not by any gradual descent, but as suddenly as the torrent sweep of the waters would allow, disengaged as they have been by the disruption of some barrier or rocky dam that held them suspended for ages at a much higher level. I say at a much higher level, because, there are various phenomena of the long and continued action of the wave in many parts of the adjacent shore, particularly the well known causeway of the ridge road, betwixt Lewiston and Rochester. It is not my purpose to explain these phenomena, but assuming them as proof of what I now assert, state that the lake has suddenly and violently been reduced to its present level, and that the effect produced by the action of the waters at that awful epoch, was nothing more than what we daily see as the miniature result of any common freshet.

If that a mill-dam break away that has so long upheld a pond as to have raised its bed by alluvial deposit above the level of the former bed of its creek, and this dam break suddenly away, what is the result?—No sooner do the rushing waters descend below the level of the artificially raised bed,