in a very small degree, and they become, a regulating power of the quantity of water issuing from Lake Ontario, or the discharge by the St. Lawrence. Along with this we know that the average fall of rain is always very nearly equal over the same county, or district, and consequently the annual mean differences of rise or fall of those surfaces, will be confined within very narrow limits, or be almost insensible, and also the annual mean discharges of the St. Lawrence be equally little varied, or be nearly constant, that is supposing any diminishing causes suspended, or that these discharges shall be the full effect of the rains and drainages. This is one physical law governing the River St. Lawrence.

Another operating influence upon the sources of this river, is the evaporation over the same extent of surface, as that of the rains, and which we had supposed suspended in the above law, but which acts considerably in diminishing the rain supply, or that which would be given without evaporation by the rains. In fact, the rains without evaporation would regulate the full supply at nearly an equal or a constant quantity annually, this evaporation would also regulate the supply, only it would be of a much less constant quantity.

Also as the average temperature annually of the same parallel of latitude is found to be nearly equable, the diminished supply by evaporation, would be only affected proportionally, and be annually less, or more, in a very small degree, and thereby leave the annual difference, or supply always nearly equal, and consequently the discharge of the river of little or no annual difference. This is another and second physical law governng the St. Lawrence.

Now seeing that there are two distinct and special operating powers or physical laws relative to the St. Lawrence, the one neutralizing to a certain and constant extent the other, and thereby limiting within moderate bounds the discharge of this river, which gives it that peculiar character of being confined within the difference of two feet in its annual rise and fall, our next enquiry is, how the St. Lawrence may be subject to any anomaly from this difference, or that this would become very disproportionate in certain years to that of others, and which anomaly might lead us to suppose, that some foreign cause not usually