

Aspect of its relief.

In the aspect of its relief, the district embraced by the accompanying map presents a well marked division into a great plain which stretches across its southern portion, occupying the valley of the St. Lawrence, and which is underlain by Paleozoic strata of Cambro-Silurian age, and a hilly or mountainous district composed of Archaean rocks to the north.

From the St. Lawrence the plain gradually rises to the north-west, attaining in the present area at its northern limit, a height of about 300 feet above the St. Lawrence at Montreal. It is usually covered with a heavy mantle of drift, so that over large areas no exposures can be found, and is well watered, fertile and thickly settled by an industrious and thriving agricultural population.

Rising abruptly from this plain, the Archaean appears as a line of hills, stretching across the country and forming a very well marked topographic feature. These hills are distinctly visible from "Mount Royal," on the slopes of which lies the city of Montreal in the extreme south-east corner of the sheet, as one looks to the north on a clear day.

The appearance which they present when seen from the plain at a distance of a few miles is shown in the accompanying sketch, taken from near the southern corner of the township of Brandon (Plate II).

These hills really constitute the edge or southerly limit of a great uneven plateau, which, however, like the plain, rises gradually to the north-west.

Elevation of plateau.

Roughly speaking it may be said that, if a line be drawn across the plateau, parallel to the northern edge of the plains, and about half way between the plain and the north-west corner of the sheet, the district to the south of this line would have an average elevation of about 1000 feet, while to the north of it the country frequently attains an elevation of 1500 feet, or to the extreme north-west, of 1900 feet. Isolated hills rise still higher, as, for instance, Trembling Mountain (Plate II.), which is probably the highest point in the district, and which attains a height of 2380 feet above sea level. Logan in 1858 measured trigonometrically the height of Trembling Mountain above Trembling Lake and found it to be 1713 feet. A barometric determination by Dr. Ells and myself gave the height as 1720 feet. Logan's estimate of the total height of this mountain as "about 2061 feet above Lake St. Peter," is, however, too low, as the railway at Chute aux Iroquois is 726 feet above Montreal and Trembling Lake is 90 feet below Chute aux Iroquois.

Trembling Mountain.

The hills about Ste. Agricole also, on a moderate computation, must attain a height of 2100 feet, the central portion of the township of