

## LAURENTIAN AREA TO THE NORTH AND WEST OF ST. JEROME.

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### GENERAL STATEMENT.

The continent of North America, as is well known, has been gradually built up by an accumulation of sediment about certain very ancient land areas which are known as its protaxes. Of these the largest and most important is the great northern protaxis, which forms the greater part of northern Canada, having an area of somewhat over 2,000,000 square miles and constituting what Suess has termed the Canadian shield or boss.

The Laurentian area which forms the extreme north-west corner of the sheet at present under discussion, is a portion of the southern margin of this great northern protaxis and thus represents a part of an extremely ancient land area, from the waste of which the elastic Paleozoic strata to the south were derived.

The area of these ancient rocks embraced in the sheet is small, amounting to about 400 square miles; it forms, however, part of a much larger district, stretching to the north beyond the limits of this map, the geology of which has been worked out, and a map of which, with full explanatory report, will appear shortly. In the following pages, therefore, merely a brief general description of that portion of this district lying within the limits of the map accompanying the present report will be given, leaving the more detailed discussion of the district as a whole, and the many problems which it presents, for the fuller report which will appear later.

In the aspects of its relief, this Laurentian country is sharply marked off from the plains, underlain by the Paleozoic—which bound it on the south. It is a somewhat uneven plateau, the edge of which when viewed from the plains appears as a range of hills running in a north-east and south-west direction. The plateau slopes gently to the south-east from an average elevation of about 1000 feet above sea-level at the north-west corner of the map, to about 450 feet above sea-level along the edge of the plain.

The depressions in its surface are generally filled with drift, forming extensive flats, in which are many picturesque lakes of clear water