

without a single flower to deck the plain, without a single tree or shrub on the hill-tops. No bird sang, no squirrel frisked and played. From the valley came up no sound of lowing cattle or bleating sheep. Through the long years the only sounds that could come upon the ears would be the moaning winds and the breaking waves, with now and then a clap of thunder, and the occasional rumbling of an earthquake and the occasional burst of a volcano. The first day was beginning to dawn and God was about to begin His work of creation of life, that work which went on through millions of years silently and quietly until man appeared.

At this early period of the earth's history, too, there were no ice-bound regions. The earth was too warm for the existence of ice. But as the earth began to cool, the water in the polar regions, away from the sun, began to congeal; the vapor rose and hung between the sun and the earth, obstructing its rays, and the process of ice-formation went on, so that many of the rocks formed in the Laurentian age are now covered by perennial snows.

Allowing sufficient time for the deposition of sediment over the ocean-beds twenty or thirty thousand feet deep, geology recognises since then many changes. These sediments were consolidated by superincumbent pressure into sandstone, clayey shales and limestones; and these were subsequently altered by water, pressure, heat and other agencies into their crystalline equivalents: quartzite, gneissoid and micaceous schists, and limestone. The lower gneissoid rocks have probably also in many places suffered extreme alteration, losing all their fissile character and passing into amorphous granite.

The Laurentian strata in Canada seem, in most parts at least, to have remained clear of later formations, always holding their heads above drift of whatever character, until the arrival of the glacial age. About the Thousand Islands they have probably been denuded of superincumbent strata. The rocks are now generally covered with sands, gravels and clays; and there form in most places arable and agricultural lands.

Laurentian rocks also crop out along the ridge of the Rocky Mountains in the west.

W. L. H. ROWAND.

Missionary Intelligence.

MISSIONS IN MADAGASCAR.

(Continued from last number.)

AGAIN there was a lull in the storm. The queen probably thought this awful blow heavy enough to end the need of repressive measures. They were favored, too, by the continued protection of the princes. During this interval the queen even permitted a missionary to visit the capital, and convey to the Christians the sympathy of Christian England.

Not many months after this missionary's departure the *last*, and, if possible, the most awful persecution broke out.

It was brought on by a Frenchman who had ingratiated himself with the Prince Royal, plotting to dethrone the queen in his favor. Along with