

and especially by the State Reports of the opposite Republic, our information is far from complete. The field, indeed, is so extensive, and the variety of particulars to be ascertained is so great, and requiring such combined and sustained investigation in different localities, and in the different departments of enquiry, that it cannot be expected that it should be otherwise. With these remarks, we shall now endeavour to give as complete, a sketch of our subject up to the present time as the present state of our information, and the limits of a single lecture, will permit.

North America may be divided into seven great basins, with reference to the direction of its rivers,—the Atlantic basin, between the Alleghanies and that ocean, the Pacific between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific, the Arctic within the Rocky Mountains on the west and the heights of land which separate it from the head waters of the St. Lawrence, and of those rivers which flow into Hudson's Bay, the basin of Hudson's Bay, the basin of the St. Lawrence, the basin of the Mississippi, and the basin of Mexico, and Central America, between the prolongation of the Rocky Mountains in those countries, and the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea.

The five great lakes, which we are now to consider, are situated within the basin of the St. Lawrence, and seem as it were the continuation of a long line of lakes, many others of which are also of great magnitude, extending in a direction from north-west to south-east, from not far from the mouth of the Mackenzie River to the Atlantic Ocean. The valley, or basin, of the St. Lawrence is divided into two parts by the rocky ridge which crosses it through the groupe of the Thousand Islands, and, in the upper portion, lie the five inland seas. This upper part, or sub-basin, is marked out