

which they occur reaches from Labrador to Lake Huron, they are a subject of real importance to both sections of the Province."

The general surface of the mineral region between the Ottawa and Lake Huron is broken and hilly; no mountains of considerable altitude exist, without we prefer to apply to the La Cloche mountains on the shores of Lake Huron and in the rear of the Manitoulin Islands that designation. These mountains have an elevation not exceeding, it is stated, 2,000 feet above the sea level. They extend into the interior of the country, and perhaps their continuation may be seen near the head waters of the Muskoka river.

It is scarcely necessary to say that our knowledge of Canadian mineral wealth, is almost altogether obtained from the admirable reports of the Geological Commission. For many years the labours of Sir W. Logan, and the gentleman associated with him, have secured a distinguished reputation abroad, and since the Exhibitions of London and Paris, the attention of practical men has been drawn to the mineral wealth of this country. It is gratifying to know that enquiries have been made respecting its accessibility, and of the means and opportunities which exist or can be called into action for bringing the inert treasures of Canadian rocks within the reach of industry and capital.

The triumph of Canada at the great Exhibition of London, was thus flatteringly alluded to by the Jurors, as expressed in their report by Mr. Dufrenoy, Juror for France, Member of the Institute of France, and Inspector General of Mines in that country, who was appointed to draw it up.

"Of all the British Colonies Canada is that whose exhibition is the most interesting and the most complete, and one may even say that it is superior, so far as the mineral kingdom is concerned, to all countries that have forwarded their products to the exhibition. This arises from the fact that the collection has been made in a systematic manner, and it results that the study of it furnishes the means of appreciating at once the geological structure and mineral resources of Canada."

At Paris, Sir W. Logan received the Grand Medal of Honour, the only instance in which that distinction was conferred upon a colony. With Canada two other countries were associated in the honour of obtaining this rare reward of merit for natural products and their applications, included in the first class, such as minerals, &c.; these were Prussia and Belgium. The Grand Medal of Honour was awarded to Sir William Logan for his geological maps of Canada and as exhibitor of the greater part of the collection of minerals.*

The metal-bearing rocks of Canada belong to two geological systems, called the Laurentian system, and the Huronian and Cambrian system. The Laurentian rocks consist of highly crystalline sedimentary strata. They are the most ancient rocks known on the American continent, and have everywhere suffered great disturbance. They occupy the whole of the above described mineral region of Canada, with the exception of a tract of country commencing at the 46th parallel of latitude, on the shores of Lake Huron, and reaching to Lake Superior, a distance of about 130 miles, which is distinguished by the overlying Huronian or Cambrian system. The Huronian

* Mr. Tache's Report of Canada at the Univ. and Exhibition of 1855.