

of which the greater part has been washed away. (Here a blackboard drawing was made of the old volcano, and as much of this rubbed off, as would reduce it to its present state.) If at that time man had been on the earth, and we had climbed the shaking sides of Montreal mountain, and looked out from the rim of its crater, still ejecting hot vapours, our view would have been over a blue sea with other smoking hills in the distance, and we could scarcely have imagined the green fields and orchards of our present plains and mountain sides. After this time of igneous and marine activity long geological ages elapsed, in which this region seems for the most part to have been a part of the land, and little change was going on except the slow crumbling of rock into soil. From deposits in other parts of America we know that the site of our city may have been occupied with the strange old-fashioned trees of the coal period, and at later times may have been the home of the giant reptiles of the mesozoic age, and of the great unwieldy beasts of the early tertiary, but of these no remains have been found here.

At a still later date Canada shared in the great submergence and ice-drift of the glacial period. For a long time the St. Lawrence valley was in a condition not dissimilar to that of Davis Strait at present, while the hills were covered with snow and glaciers. In this time were formed the boulder clay, the brick clay and the superficial sand which now cover the lower terraces of Montreal mountain, and the flat country at its base. We can find in the openings made in our streets, marine shells, of the same species with those still living in the colder waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the Labrador coast. (Specimens of these were handed round.) The glacial age passed away; the land was again clothed with for-

ests, and was inhabited by the mammoth and mastodon and other great animals now extinct. This was the antediluvian period, and whether antediluvian man had then penetrated to Canada we do not know, though there is good evidence of his existence in Europe and Asia, and some indication that he had made his way to parts of America further south. Nor have we any certain facts as to the first peopling of our country in post-diluvian times, after the mammoth and his contemporaries had passed away. Our first picture of geologically modern Canada and of the site of Montreal is that given by the Breton navigator, Jacques Cartier, in his visit to Hochelaga, the predecessor of our fair city, in 1534. He ascended the St. Lawrence in his boats and occupied thirteen days in a voyage which is now performed in as many hours. Landing at the foot of the current on what is now called Hochelaga, he was conducted by the natives to their town, situated at the foot of the mountain on the sandy terrace along which the western part of Sherbrooke Street now runs. Reference was then made to the friendly and pleasant nature of the intercourse of Cartier with the Hochelagans, as reported in his narrative, and to their arts and manners, as illustrated by the remains found on the site of their village, as well as to their entire destruction, shortly after Cartier's visit, by their Indian enemies, so that when Montreal was founded a century later by M. Maisonneuve, the island was found deserted and the old site of Hochelaga overgrown with trees. Finally, it was remarked that though the old natives were prone to think of the past and the young to look forward to the future, it is well for young men to have some intelligent knowledge of the processes by which God has prepared the way for us, and to realize our own responsibility for the best and highest uses