

We will, however, in this hurried glance be forced to neglect the many strange and curious forms that geological research has brought to light.

Again the cooling and shrinking of the earth interfered with the progress of life. The Devonian and Silurian rocks reaching from near Wolfville to the Sissibou river were folded together and shut up like a book. Those stony records stamped with the history of a strange and eventful past were closed not again to be opened till many a long era had gone by and many a mighty revolution had changed the face of nature. And now where the Nictaux and Bear River have chiselled deep valleys through their folded slates, we may read on their steep sides the strange history of Devonian life.

To the close of the Devonian period belongs the era of the granitic outbreak which so changed the appearance of a large part of Nova Scotia. This was indeed an event which deserves a more extended notice. Thenceforth for ages the history of the ancient highlands of Nova Scotia was a blank. Land there was, but to what purpose; life there may have been, but it has left no record. All we know is that for a long period of time our mountains were acted upon by influences which ground them down and transported the materials to the sea. On the Sissibou River one of the ancient mountain ridges was worn away to about five miles below its original surface and this, be it remembered, was accomplished before the coal period. It has been calculated from sound data that the ordinary action of frost and water lowers the earth's surface not more than one foot in 3,000 years; yet here we have over 25,000 feet of solid rock removed particle by particle and conveyed to the ocean by some such cause as above mentioned. So insignificant seems this method of working and so tremendous are the results, is it any wonder that we hesitate to believe ere we have seen some proof? And yet this is one of the simplest truths of Nova Scotian geology.

When we look back on this event, which occupies but a small fraction of geological history, it is not surprising that geologists should claim such immense periods for the enaction of the changes which they relate. And this is not a solitary testimony, but is sup-