

movements of the earth's crust producing depressions, known as "faults" and "cross-faults," thus enabling the river to carve out new channels.

In this way the Miramichi (once larger than the St. John) was unfairly robbed of its head waters. The mighty Restigouche of ancient days received like treatment at a period somewhat later, for, according to one of our leading geologists, that part of the River St. John which at Edmundston turns westward to its source two hundred miles away in northern Maine once flowed down the channel of the Restigouche to the Bay of Chaleur. It continued to do so until it was tapped by the St. John and led to seek another outlet in the Bay of Fundy.

The St. John truly has been most erratic in its proceedings, wandering from one valley to another across the natural rock formations of the province. At some of the places where it has broken through, falls or rapids yet exist, once more formidable than they are today having been worn down by erosion. Little Falls (at Edmundston), Grand Falls, the Meductic Falls, and the Falls at St. John are examples.

The character and volume of the river varied in geological ages with alternating periods of elevation and depression of the surface of the country. It is quite certain that at one time the valley of the lower St. John had an elevation much higher than it has today. Consequently the channel extended some distance out into the Bay. This channel is still readily traced, and soundings indicate that there was a considerable waterfall in the vicinity of Partridge Island, where perhaps the water once fell over an escarpment into the sea. The southern coast of New Brunswick is still sinking