

of the last century, though the exact date varies in different localities, a change appears to have occurred in the direction of magnetic oscillation in almost all parts of the world. In Canada, the line of no variation seems to have been advancing towards the east, during the last century, till almost all our western peninsula had easterly variation, but it has since been moving towards the west, till it has almost entirely passed off our boundaries, and the declination is now increasing westerly over all Canada. At Toronto it has increased from $1^{\circ} 14' 3''$, in 1841, to $2^{\circ} 21' 9''$, in 1864, or at the average rate of $3'$ annually, and at Quebec the rate is apparently rather greater. The exact period of the change in Upper Canada cannot be well ascertained; at Quebec it appears to have nearly coincided with the commencement of this century, as may be seen from the following table:—

1642.....	$16^{\circ} 00'$	Bressani.
1686.....	$15^{\circ} 30'$	Des Hayes (Hansteen).
1785.....	$12^{\circ} 35'$	Surveyor General Holland.
1793.....	$12^{\circ} 05'$	do do
1805.....	$11^{\circ} 35'$	Smallest observed.
1840.....	$13^{\circ} 35'$	Surveyor General Bouchette.
1860.....	$16^{\circ} 00'$	

We have thus returned to the same amount of declination which Bressani observed 220 years ago.

It is the same all along the Atlantic coast, as may be seen from the following table, extracted from the reports of the United States Coast Survey.

Cambridge, Massachusetts:—

DECLINATION.		
1708.....	$9^{\circ} 00'$	Earliest recorded observation.
1782.....	$6^{\circ} 48'$	Smallest recorded.
1842.....	$9^{\circ} 34'$	

Providence, Rhode Island:—

1717.....	$9^{\circ} 36'$	Earliest.
1790 }	$6^{\circ} 10'$	Smallest.
1795 }		
1848.....	$9^{\circ} 15'$	

New York:—

1750.....	$6^{\circ} 22'$	Earliest.
1789.....	$4^{\circ} 20'$	Smallest.
1845.....	$6^{\circ} 25'$	