

Meduxnakeag.

south of Woodstock, where they meet and pass into red and grey syenite, to within four miles of Victoria corner, north of the same place. Along portions of this shore, as at the mouth of the Meduxnakeag, are slates of a greenish or reddish color, which may be a continuation of the hematite beds of Oak Mountain, and there are also grey slates and sandstones, but the prevailing rock is a quartzose felspathic grit, generally containing hornblende or augite mingled with particles of green felspar. It is very obscurely stratified and at times markedly columnar, and often difficult to distinguish from a true syenite. These varying features are well exhibited in the railway cuttings south of the town, and again about and between the bridges which span the St. John River a short distance above it.

The rocks which have been described above as gneissoid, felspathic and syenitic grits, with the associated felsites and the similar rocks to be presently noticed on the eastern side of the St. John River, are those about which a doubt has been expressed whether they may not really be of Pre-Cambrian rather than Cambro-Silurian age. Their lithological characters, recalling those of certain parts of the Huronian system in St. John county, certainly give some countenance to this view, and it is one which derives some further confirmation from the observations of Mr. Ellis on what is probably the eastward extension of these beds on the Miramichi and Nepisiquit, while their stratigraphical relations leave the matter in doubt; but considering their limited and irregular distribution, the impossibility of mapping them separately with accuracy, and especially the want of any positive evidence of their greater antiquity, it is deemed best, as has been stated, for the present at least, to include them as a part of the Cambro-Silurian system.

Argillites.

It only remains, in concluding the description of this system as seen on the west side of the St. John River, to add a few words relative to the less altered slates and sandstones which occupy the intervals between these crystalline belts, and which are believed to be the most recent Cambro-Silurian rocks. In their inferior portion, where they rest upon and alternate with the micaceous sandstones, they are themselves micaceous, as well as black, pyritous and sometimes graphitic, (including on the St. John River, above Sullivan's Creek, some highly calcareous beds, remarkable for the extent to which they are seamed with spar); but commonly they are of simple grey or dark-grey colors, often with a pale greenish tint from the presence of disseminated chlorite, and consisting of alternating beds of ordinary slate and hard fine sandstone or quartzite. The latter vary from one to four or five feet in thickness, and are usually more or less felspathic. With the exception mentioned they are rarely calcareous in any sensible degree but usually contain more or less pyrite and are often rusty weathering

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