

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MINERALOGY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

BY

PROFESSOR HOW, D.C.L.,

UNIVERSITY OF KING'S COLLEGE, WINDSOR, NOVA SCOTIA.

III. *Borates and other Minerals in Anhydrite and Gypsum.*

SILICOBOROCALCITE, a New Mineral.—In former papers

I have pointed out the existence of two distinct borates in the gypsum of this vicinity, viz. natroborocalcite* and cryptomorphite†, both hydrated borates of calcium and sodium—the latter exclusively, the former occasionally, associated with glauber salt—and have adverted to the possibility of their being sometimes found together in intimate connexion with the latter‡. The very large quantity of quarried “plaster” (as both anhydrite and gypsum are called here) to be seen at Windsor, not less than 104,000 tons having been cleared in twenty-one months from this port, of which the greater part has been shipped from its own wharves, affords abundant material for the study of its varieties and the minerals they contain. A short time ago I observed natroborocalcite in plaster from two quarries distant from its original locality and from each other, but in the same district, as will be described further on,—and also a mineral, evidently different, which proved to be an addition to the short list of natural borates, and to the still shorter list of silicated borates. The mineral exhibits very different degrees of hardness; the hardest specimens are found in anhydrite, the softest in gypsum, both matrices occurring in the same deposit. The hard mineral is in white, rounded, often egg-shaped nodules, brittle, and of nearly even and smooth fracture, which is well shown in the broken masses giving almost flat surfaces continuous with those

* Silliman's Journal, September 1857; and Edinb. New Phil. Journ. July 1857.

† Loc. cit. 1861.

‡ Chemical News, 1867.