

General remarks on the conglomerates

One is struck with the absence in the Percé region of the great thickness of the rusty brown Gaspé sandstones which at Little Gaspé rest conformably on the limestones and at Gaspé Basin carry marine fossils. Doubtless we are to find the contemporary of these deposits in the red and white sandstones of Percé, but they are only feebly developed and to them as an equivalent of the work elsewhere done, we must add some part of the conglomerate series. We follow ideas before expressed in regard to the tremendous deposits of the Gaspé sandstone, as sediments laid down first along an embayed coast and eventually in a deep coastal estuary which received heavy drainage from an elevated and rapidly decaying land surface. That estuary may have extended far to the southeast and at times it appears to have been shut off from the ocean entirely by the upbuilding of bars across its mouth but it was virtually and for long periods a coastal lagoon subject to inroads from without in times of stress.

Then was the period of Old Red lakes in New York, in Scotland, Orkney and Russia. They did not all begin at the same period of time nor continue their existence for equal times; some began in the late Siluric, others in middle Devonian, several are known to have continued their existence beyond the Devonian and into the Carbonic. So here, we are disposed to believe, this peculiar mode of sedimentation has transcended the limits of Devonian time and entered the Carbonic, though we have no traces of marine life of either period after the deposition was once established. The conglomerates of eastern Gaspé are contrasted with the sandstones of the more westerly parts of the county, and we may interpret them as the deposits of the seaward ends of the long estuary where for countless time the waters of the sea beat, as today, on the upturned edges of the ancient limestone cliffs and rolled their fragments up along the margin of an ever sinking continent.

Conclusion

From the future detailed study of the faunas preserved in this series of Siluric and Devonian limestones, we may expect a flood of light on the significance of contemporaneous faunas in the northern