

base leveling in which the ancient floor of the Hudson valley was worked out.

Davis<sup>1</sup> in 1891 referred the excavation of the Hudson valley to Tertiary time and the cutting of the trench in this lowland to late Tertiary or a post-Tertiary beginning.

**Rock channels of the upper Hudson valley.** The Hudson gorge is fairly well defined as far north as Fort Edward by the present course of the river. At that point the river falls into this rock channel from the west very much as the Mohawk falls into it at Cohoes, but the rock gorge is traceable north-northeast into the Lake Champlain valley.

The divide today between the Hudson drainage and the Champlain drainage in this gorge lies about 5 miles northeast of Fort Edward and is a scarcely perceptible watershed 147 feet above sea level. It is owing to this feature that the Champlain canal connects the two drainage basins with relative ease and few locks. [See the Glens Falls quadrangle for details of the topography]

The present course of the Hudson from the eastern edge of the Adirondacks to Fort Edward is evidently of postglacial origin, for the river runs over ledges at Fort Edward, at Bakers Falls, at Sandy Hill and again at Glens Falls, dropping from the 300 foot contour at the edge of the mountains to about 130 feet at Fort Edward. West of Glens Falls the river has sunk its bed in meanders into the glacial sands which form a delta made on the melting out of the ice which lay in the lowlands in this upper part of its valley. These sands thickly cover the bed rock topography. Whether the river in preglacial times flowed southward so as to join the Hudson gorge at or below Fort Edward or turning to the north just west of Glens Falls and following the valley of Halfway creek emptied into Lake Champlain is at present an open question, which can only be decided on evidence from borings which are at present wanting in this section.

It is evident that Halfway creek flows in a well defined channel but partly filled by the debris of the last ice invasion [see Glens Falls sheet].

*Ballston channel.* From near Schenectady an old rock channel trends north-northeastward by Ballston toward Saratoga. South

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<sup>1</sup>Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. Proc. 1891. 25:318-35.