and the sands which overlie it as one formation. According to him the chemical composition of the clays is as follows:

Water of absorption	4.25
Organic matter	1.17
Sulfate of lime	1
Silicates	69.02
Peroxid of iron and alumina	17.24
Potash	.14
Carbonate of lime	4
Magnesia	3
	99.82

A trace of chlorid of sodium exists. No exact statement of the source of chlorid of sodium in this clay can be given. If it were marine it would be expected that considerable traces of common salt and other sea salts would be found. The trace of chlorid of sodium noted by Emmons has no bearing on the marine origin of the clays since such traces are found in the surface waters even of the Berkshire hills.[1]

Mr Asa Fitch M. D.[2] employed the term "Albany clay formation" in 1849. He stated: "As neither its geological age or name is well settled, I prefer designating it the Albany clay."

Mr Fitch[3] noted the essential continuity of the clays from the Hudson valley to Whitehall and thence into the Lake Champlain valley. In most of Washington county the clay rests directly on the Hudson river slate, though extensive beds of gravel locally intervene. East of Comstock's landing the clay is stated to be 20 or more feet thick. In a railroad cut across the river from Fort Edward, Mr Fitch noted sand layers alternating with clay with local unconformity between these beds and an overlying sand deposit containing boulders of the underlying clay beds.

Lake Albany doubtless began on the south in the waters standing in front of the retreating ice sheet prior to the opening of

[1] *See* Mass. State Bd of Health, 23d Rep't, with map. Boston 1892.

[2] Historical, Topographical and Agricultural Survey of the County of Washington. N. Y. State Agric. Soc. Trans. 1849. 1850. 9:872.

[3] *l. c.* p.873-75.