

In 1850, Desor<sup>1</sup> gave some account of the fossiliferous clays and sands of the St Lawrence valley and very appropriately called them Laurentian. They constitute the only example of a geologic formation whose principal and most typical area lies within the basin of this majestic river. Only one other name is so suggestive of their distribution, that of Quebec in which province they chiefly lie.

In 1853, Logan unfortunately employed practically the same name in the term Laurentian in the official reports of the geological survey of Canada for a group of rocks believed to be at the base of the geologic column, and Desor's proposal failed of adoption despite the claim for priority which might have been made for it. In fact Desor's term appears to have been overlooked till the Vermont geologists came to decide on a name for the marine deposits of recent date within the area of that state, when it appears a second unfortunate choice attended the naming of these ill appreciated marine deposits.

In the *Report on the Geology of Vermont* by Edward and Charles Hitchcock and Hagar the term Champlain clays was adopted to designate the marine fossiliferous beds along the Vermont shore of Lake Champlain, the name being proposed in part for the reason as stated that Desor's prior term had been appropriated and was in established use for rocks of a very different age. In this connection the belief was held that the term *Champlain group* introduced into the New York reports by E. Emmons in 1841 had fallen into disuse, a condition in which the term has certainly been up to its proposed revival by Clarke and Schuchert in 1899.

In the employment of the term Champlain by the Vermont geologists in 1861 its meaning was made sufficiently clear as applying to the marine beds which there followed the glacial drift, though the formational term *clays* seems rather to parallel it with the biologic term Leda clay proposed by J. W. Dawson in 1857, neither term being strictly applicable to the entire series of deposits laid down under this marine invasion, a fact which was partially recognized in Canada by the use of the term Saxicava sand in the same year. The term Champlain having been

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<sup>1</sup>Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. Proc. 1850. 3:357-58.