thus newly defined, during the slumber of the Silurian sense of
the name, quickly passed in American geologic literature into an
astonishing breadth of meaning and usage as wide as the contin-
ent itself and was stretched to embrace deposits laid down
before, during and after the peculiar drift deposits from which
in the Vermont report of 1861 the Champlain clays were accu-
rrately discriminated as the result of a definite process acting at
a subsequent time. Whatever confusion may be attributed to
the application of the term Champlain to the postglacial marine
deposits of the northeastern part of America by the Vermont
geologists it is clear that the original account did not contemplate
the inclusion under this term of practically all the Postpliocene
stratified sands and clays in other parts of the continent. This
most extended use of the term is found most clearly set forth in

The advances made in the past two decades in the separation
of the glacial drift into distinct epochs of ice advance and the
introduction of such a term as Wisconsin for the last series of
ice sheet deposits has tended among other causes to leave the
term Champlain as employed in Dana's Manual a synonym for
an ill assorted and broken up collection of facts, there remaining
only for its exclusive use the original marine beds of the Cham-
plain and St Lawrence valleys and their equivalents elsewhere,
for which the term was originally proposed by the Vermont
geologists. In this restricted sense for which a name is and
ever must be needed the name would be appropriate did it not
find itself confronted with a contest for survival by the resur-
rected Champlain group of the lower Silurian whose title to
recognition according to the law of priority which should govern
all scientific names is clear but whose rehabilitation must never-
theless, in view of the circumstances above detailed prove a source
of confusion. In fact to continue the use of either term from
now on is to involve any context in which they are introduced
in some obscurity. The happiest solution of the difficulty pre-
sented by the present status in geology of the name Champlain
would appear to be to allow both applications with whatever
postfixes to become obsolete in geologic literature. The name of
Samuel de Champlain as much as we admire his high character