

by Messrs. Jackson and Alger, in their elaborate paper, read in the year 1831, to the American Academy.\* Although this trap is generally parallel to the subjacent red sandstone, it appears in reality to form a great dyke rather than a contemporaneous bed.

As I was strolling along the beach at the base of these basaltic cliffs, collecting minerals, and occasionally recent shells at low tide, I stopped short at the sight of an unexpected phenomenon. The solitary inhabitant of a desert island could scarcely have been more startled by a human foot-print in the sand, than I was on beholding some recent furrows on a ledge of sandstone under my feet, the exact counterpart of those grooves of ancient date which I have so often described in this work, and attributed to glacial action. After having searched in vain at Quebec (see p. 120) for such indications of a modern date, I had despaired of witnessing any in this part of the world. I was now satisfied that, whatever might be their origin, those before me were quite recent.

The inferior beds of soft sandstone, *a, a*, *fig. 16*, which are exposed at low water at the base of the cliff at Cape Blomidon, form a broad ledge of bare rock, to the surface of which no sea-weed or barnacles can attach themselves, as the stone is always wearing away slowly by the continual passage of sand and gravel, washed over it from the talus of fallen fragments, *d*, which lies at the foot of the cliff on the beach above. The slow but constant under-

\* On the Mineralogy and Geology of Nova Scotia. Mem. of Amer. Acad. of Arts and Sci., vol. i., New Series, 1833. Cambridge, Mass.