

CHAPTER XIV

Eozoon Canadense AND THE LAURENTIAN ROCKS. THE
OLDER ROCKS OF PEMBROKESHIRE. PETROLOGY

Eozoon Canadense AND THE LAURENTIAN ROCKS—H. B. HOLL—HENRY HICKS AND RESEARCHES IN PEMBROKESHIRE—THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY—PETROLOGY—SAMUEL ALLPORT—J. CLIFTON WARD—J. ARTHUR PHILLIPS—THE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY—VOLCANIC ROCKS OF SKYE—NOMENCLATURE OF ROCKS—EARTHQUAKES—COSMOGONY—GEOLOGICAL TIME

IN 1858 Dr. T. Sterry Hunt 'argued from the chemical characters of the Laurentian rocks the probability of the existence of organic life at that early period.' Five years later Sir William Logan figured in his 'Report on the Geology of Canada' (1863) a probable fossil that had been obtained from those rocks, which were regarded as among the most ancient on the earth's surface. In the following year (1864), when he attended the meeting of the British Association in Bath, Logan introduced to this country specimens that were considered by Dr. J. W. Dawson to be organic, to belong to Foraminifera, and to be worthy of the appellation *Eozoon Canadense*.¹

Lyell, who was president of the Association, looked upon the discovery as the greatest that had been made in his time, and Dr. W. B. Carpenter subsequently expressed his opinion that the structures belonged to a colossal rhizopod. In November 1864 Logan brought the *Eozoon* before the Geological Society, and in the spring of 1865 Ramsay lectured on the subject at the Royal Institution.

In a paper read before the Society early in 1866 the nature of *Eozoon* was contested by Professors William

¹ 'Life of Sir William E. Logan,' by B. J. Harrington, 1883, pp. 365-376.