

nities to expound and enforce his views, insomuch that the conviction has obtained great currency in Canada that this limestone is the principal source of petroleum in that province. Under this conviction, scores of oil wells have been bored throughout the belt of Canadian territory immediately underlaid by the Corniferous limestone. If this formation, say they, is the source of the oil obtained at Enniskillen, where it lies five hundred feet from the surface, let us proceed to some region where this formation approaches nearer the surface, and thus save several hundred feet of boring. Though this reasoning has been put in practice in multitudes of cases, both in Canada and the United States, I am not aware of a single well bored in the Corniferous limestone that has produced sufficiently to pay expenses. I do not regard the inference acted upon as legitimately drawn from Dr. Hunt's views; for he must perceive that, even were this limestone the source of petroleum-supplies, it must have evaporated throughout the regions of surface-outcrop of the formation.

But the Corniferous limestone seems not to be the source of petroleum-supplies even in those regions where the superposition of another formation has arrested wastage. If it were the source of such marvelous quantities as have been drawn from the Canadian strata, its own cavities and interstices should certainly be charged with the liquid. To test this precise question, a "test well" was bored at Enniskillen at the joint expense of parties interested, and was continued over two hundred feet in this formation; but from the time of entering it the signs of oil were materially diminished instead of increased. The Corniferous limestone has also been penetrated at St. Clair, in Michigan, under circumstances as favorable as possible for the discovery of any great quantities of oil which may be stored up in its recesses. The salt well at that place extended through the