

eminent authorities would confirm my conclusions, and bring forward new facts which I might have overlooked or been ignorant of. Sir William saw both gentlemen, who gave their testimony in favour of the organic and foraminiferal character of the specimens; and Dr. Carpenter, in particular, gave much attention to the subject, and worked out more in detail many of the finer structures, besides contributing valuable suggestions as to the probable affinities of the supposed fossil.

Dr. Carpenter thus contributed in a very important manner to the perfecting of the investigations begun in Canada, and on him fell the greater part of their illustration and defence,¹ in so far as Great Britain is concerned.

The immediate result was a composite paper in the *Proceedings of the Geological Society*, by Sir W. E. Logan, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Hunt, and myself, in which the geology, palæontology and mineralogy of *Eozoon Canadense* and its containing rocks were first given to the world.² It cannot be wondered at that when geologists and palæontologists were thus required to believe in the existence of organic remains in rocks regarded as altogether Azoic and hopelessly barren of fossils, and to carry back the dawn of life as far before those Primordial rocks, which were supposed to contain its first traces, as these are before the middle period of the earth's life history, some hesitation should be felt. Further, the accurate appreciation of the evidence for such a fossil as *Eozoon* required an amount of knowledge of minerals, of the more humble types of animals, and of the conditions of mineralization of organic remains, possessed by few even of professional geologists. Thus *Eozoon* has met with some scepticism and not a little opposition,—though the latter has been weaker than we might have expected when

¹ In *Quarterly Journal of Geological Society*, vol. xxii.; *Proc. Royal Society*, vol. xv.; *Intellectual Observer*, 1865. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 1874; and other papers and notices.

² *Journal Geological Society*, February, 1865.