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## THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

## THE PHYSIOGRAPHY OF VERMONT[1]

AT this time no discussion of many interesting though difficult and perplexing questions to which a study of Vermont physiography gives rise will be attempted, but simply a brief consideration of its most conspicuous features.

Geologically Vermont is one of the oldest parts of the country as it contains very little rock that was formed later than the Ordovician. The geological history of Vermont, like that of most regions, may be properly divided into several distinct periods.

The Adirondacks of New York on the west side of Lake Champlain are mostly Pre-Cambrian and at the same time, or probably somewhat later, but still in Pre-Cambrian time, a fold or folds, rose on the east and formed the first elevation of the Green Mountains. Thus the Champlain Valley with its present outline was established in this early period.

Pre-Cambrian rocks have been found in the Green Mountains in only a few localities, but as yet no extended study of these mountains has been made. When thorough investigation shall reveal their complete structure the backbone or axis of the Green Mountains will almost certainly be found to be of an age earlier than the Paleozoic.

At this time then there was the Adirondack ridge on the west and the Green Mountains ridge on the east and between them a strait or channel which connected New York Bay with the St. Lawrence Gulf. An era of erosion and subsidence followed and the great ocean rolled over the whole country east of the Adirondacks.

[1] Address of the vice-president and retiring chairman of Section E, Geology and Geography, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Baltimore, December, 1918.