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What Shall We Do with Precambrian?

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Its destruction was most complete in the right half of its track and in places where its path led up medium to steep slopes. Buildings, trees, crops or fences were injured or ruined on fifteen farms.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE,
AMES, IOWA.

THE NASHUA MARLS OF THE ST. JOHNS RIVER
REGION

S. W. STOOKEY

The Tertiary formations represented in Florida. Dall's papers on the Nashua marls of the Caloosahatchee River region of South-western Florida. The recognition of Pliocene marls along the St. Johns River by Matson and Clapp. Lists of fossils there collected. Lists of fossils collected by the author one-half mile north of the Atlantic coast Line bridge compared with those collected at Yelvington ten miles west of the St. John's River. Comparison of these with previous lists published. These all seem to be of late Pliocene age.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH PRECAMBRIAN?

CHARLES KEYES

Recent marked tendency shown in Europe especially to give taxonomic rank comparable to geological period, Carbonic, Cretacic, and the like, to rocks older than those of Cambrian age, and to designate the rock column represented Precambrian appears to be, in this country at least, a notably retrogressive movement. It parallels the situation a century ago when Wernerians were possessed with jumbling together all rocks beneath those of Cretacic age, as we know them today, under the title of the Transition Class. Out of the latter speedily take on form six great systems. Thus, late delimitations of Precambrian imply its recognition as having Systemic or Periodic rank, a rank much too low.

In America, particularly, real progress is made in quite the other direction. The stratified column of pre-Paleozoic age, wonderfully well expressed in the Montana-Alberta portion of the Rocky Mountains, resolves itself into quite as many subdivisions, sections of Periodic span, as we are accustomed to recognize from

the Cambric onward. In fact there appear to be no less than three grand divisions surpassing greatly in time-span and stratigraphic extent the whole of our Paleozoics. These Montanan terranes of pre-Paleozoic age are even more clearly differentiated than Murchison and Sedgwick resolved the old Transition Class into distinctive units.

Precambrian, then, now belongs to the same category of purposeless terminology as does the catch-'em-all title Transition Class, and like the latter its use in any taxonomic sense may as well be discontinued, lost, and forgotten.

DES MOINES, IOWA.

THE EASTERN MARGIN OF THE HERTHA IN MADISON COUNTY

ARTHUR GOSHORN

Evidence was presented that The Hertha extends further east than has heretofore been reported.

WINTERSET, IOWA.

RECESSIONAL STAGES BETWEEN THE ALTAMONT AND THE GARY (?) MORAINES IN IOWA

JOHN E. SMITH

Immediately following the time that the Altamont moraine was formed there was an intermittent retreat of the Wisconsin ice sheet to the position of the Gary (?) about fifty miles north-northwest of Des Moines. In Story county the distance between these moraines decreases to about thirty miles and northward from Story county it becomes as small as twenty miles in some places.

Between the Altamont and Gary (?) moraines there are about twenty small recessional ones spaced with some degree of uniformity about one to two miles apart in Story county. They are less widely separated northward and more widely separated in a south-westerly direction. On the south and west borders of the Wisconsin area, the moraines formed during halts are not so prominent as on the eastern margin.

The small recessional moraines consist of low ridges varying in height and in width. They appear as broad low swells in some places and can be distinguished only with difficulty in others. In