could be set to the advancing deluge. In a little time, how-
ever, he sees that the fiat, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, and no
farther,' has been issued to the great bay tide : its retreat com-
mences, and the waters rush back as rapidly as they entered.

"The rising tide sweeps away the fine material from every
exposed bank and cliff, and becomes loaded with mud and
extremely fine sand, which, as it stagnates at high water, it
deposits in a thin layer on the surface of the flats. This layer,
which may vary in thickness from a quarter of an inch to a
quarter of a line, is coarser and thicker at the outer edge of
the flats than nearer the shore; and hence these flats, as well
as the marshes, are usually higher near the channels than at
their inner edge. From the same cause,—the more rapid de-
position of the coarser sediment,—the lower side of each layer
is arenaceous, and sometimes dotted over with films of mica,
while the upper side is fine and slimy, and when dry has a
shining and polished surface. The falling tide has little effect
on these deposits, and hence the gradual growth of the flats,
until they reach such a height that they can be overflowed only
by the high spring tides. They then become natural or salt
marsh, covered with the coarse grasses and *carices* which grow
in such places. So far the process is carried on by the hand
of nature ; and before the colonization of Nova Scotia, there
were large tracts of this grassy alluvium to excite the wonder
and delight of the first settlers on the shores of the Bay of
Fundy. Man, however, carries the land - making process
farther; and by diking and draining, excludes the sea water,
and produces a soil capable of yielding for an indefinite period,
without manure, the most valuable cultivated grains and
grasses."

The mud of these great tidal flats is at the surface of a red
colour, and so fine that when the tide leaves it and its surface
becomes dry, it shines in the sun as if polished. It is thus
capable of taking the finest impressions. When the tide is in,