

prosecute original work. In connection with this ambition, after having attained some little reputation by papers published under the auspices of the Geological Society of London, I accepted an invitation to deliver a course of lectures on geology and allied subjects in Dalhousie College, Halifax, in the winter of 1849-50. When in Halifax, I had some conversation with Messrs. Young and Howe, afterwards Sir William Young and Sir Joseph Howe at that time governors of Dalhousie College and the leaders of the Provincial Government, as to a new school-law they were preparing for Nova Scotia, and in which important improvements were introduced. I had at the time no thought of being connected with the administration of the Act. In the following spring, however, I was surprised with the offer of the position of Superintendent of Education, established under the new law. I had many reasons for declining the task, but my friends would take no refusal, and I consoled myself with the consideration that the visitation of the school districts throughout the province, which was one of the duties of the office, would give great facilities for making myself acquainted with the geology of the country. For three years I was engaged in this work, and, besides writing educational reports, and administering the new school law, conducting an educational journal, visiting schools, and holding teachers' institutes, had collected the materials for several papers published in England, as well as for my "Acadian Geology," which, however, did not appear till 1855. In 1852, when on a geological excursion with my friend Sir Charles Lyell, I was introduced by him to Sir Edmund Head, the Governor of New Brunswick, who was much occupied at the time with the state of education in that province, and in particular that of its provincial university; and in 1854 he invited me, along with the late Dr. Ryerson, to be a member of a commission which had been appointed to suggest means for the improvement of the provincial university. This work was scarcely finished when Sir Edmund was promoted to be the Governor-General of Canada, and removed to Quebec, where, under the new charter granted to McGill College in 1852, he became Visitor of the University; and as he was known to be a man of pronounced literary and scientific tastes, and an active worker in the reforms then recently car-