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JOHN ROBERT WILLIS,
THE FIRST NOVA SCOTIAN CONCHOLOGIST.

A MEMORIAL.

HIS LIFE; HIS LIST OF SHELLS OF NOVA SCOTIA, AND
HIS OTHER PUBLISHED WORKS.

Edited by W. F. GANONG, A. M.

INTRODUCTION.

It has been for some time past a source of much inconvenience and regret to some at least of the students of the Mollusca of Eastern Canada and New England, that the lists made by John Willis have been quite inaccessible. These lists have been frequently quoted by Gould, Stimpson, Dawson, Dall and others, and must form the basis for any future work of a similar character in this region. Yet they are not found in any of our large libraries, scientific or otherwise; neither the British Museum, nor those at Washington, at Philadelphia, at Boston, at Cambridge, at Ottawa, at St. John, nor at Halifax possess them, and so far as careful and systematic inquiries have been able to discover, there are but four or five copies of the principal list in existence, and all of them are the property of private individuals. There is no question as to its value, and the call for its preservation is imperative. Published as it was, privately and on a single large sheet, it was given to the world under conditions the worst possible for its preservation, and it is not surprising that it has been almost totally lost even from the carefully-guarded shelves of our largest libraries. Such lists can be sure of a permanent existence only in the pages of a regularly issued periodical of

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