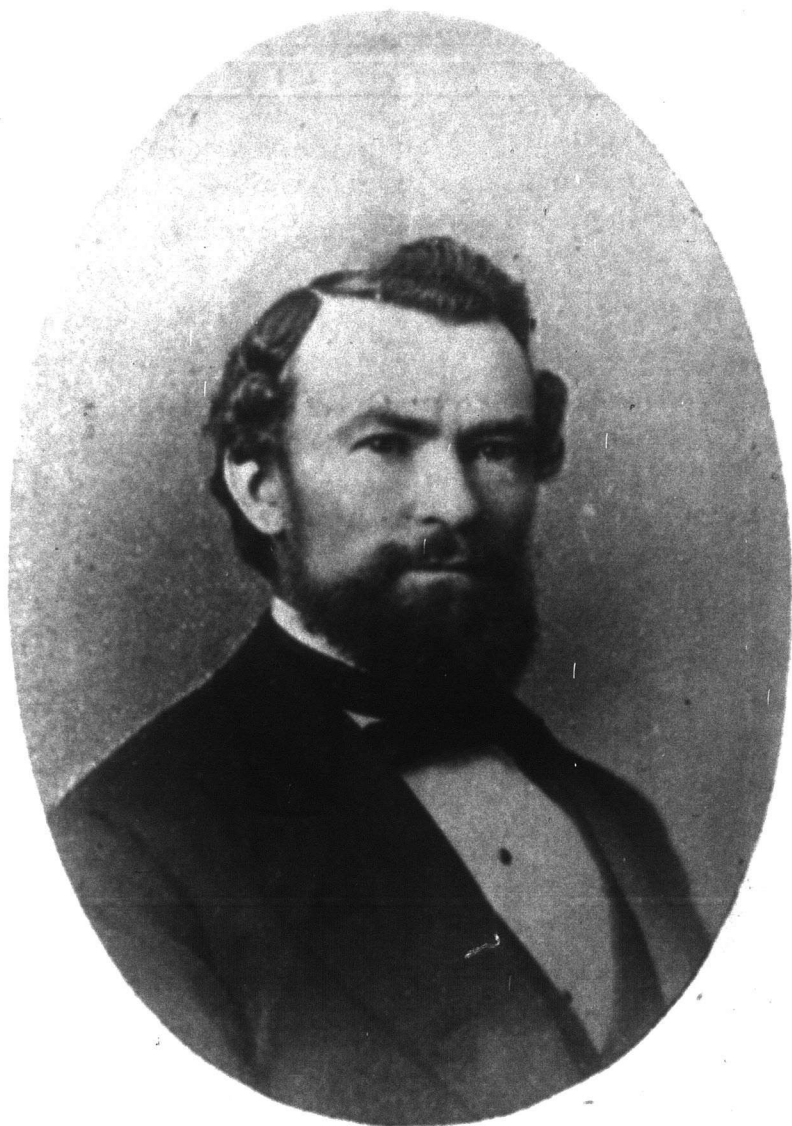


Geo. F. Matthew, M. A., D. Sc., F. R. S. C.



We have much pleasure in presenting to the readers of the REVIEW a sketch and portrait of Geo. F. Matthew, of St. John. Although Dr. Matthew has been engaged in active business pursuits during his life, he has devoted himself so successfully to science, and especially to his chosen subject, geology, that his name is known far and wide as an authority on the geology of New Brunswick. Nor is he unknown to teachers. During his connection with the Natural History Society he has been a teacher of science, year after year giving instruction to classes of teachers and other students in the rooms and museum of the society in geology and other subjects of natural science. His busy and useful life is a striking example of what may be accomplished by those who use wisely their odd moments.

Born at St. John, August 12th, 1837, he received his education at the St. John grammar school, then taught by Dr. Paterson. His grandfather was Captain George Matthew, who came here in command of one of the vessels of the "Fall Fleet" of Loyalists in 1783. He was not a Loyalist, but from Dundee, Scotland, and was for a number of years before his death harbor master of the port of St. John. His father, George Matthew, was a merchant and mill-owner in St. John. His

mother was a daughter of John Harris, a farmer and ship-builder, who settled at Gondola Point, near Rothesay, with the Loyalists, and was from York, England. In April, 1868, Dr. Matthew was married to Katherine Mary, second daughter of Rev. J. W. Diller, D. D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., by whom he has several children, of whom the eldest son, Dr. Wm. D. Matthew, a recent graduate of Columbia College, N. Y., gives promise of a brilliant career in science.

In 1853 Mr. Matthew was appointed clerk in the Provincial Treasury Department, St. John, which was merged after confederation in the Customs Department. For over forty years he has maintained his connection with the customs. He was appointed Chief Clerk in 1879, and Surveyor of Customs in 1893, which office he now holds.

Mr. Matthew's scientific work dates from 1864, although previous to that he was an active member of the "Steinhammer Club," the progenitor of the N. B. Natural History Society. This club numbered several active scientific workers, among them the late Prof. C. F. Hartt, the late R. P. Starr, and others. From 1864 to 1878 Mr. Matthew was engaged in geological exploration of the southern counties of New Brunswick, first with Dr. Bailey on the Provincial Geological Survey, and after, in 1869, on the Canadian Geological and Natural History Survey. While employed on the geological survey of New Brunswick he was offered the situation of naturalist and geologist on the International commission for marking the boundary between the United States and Canada, west of the Mississippi, but was unable to accept this appointment.

Mr. Matthew's published writings are numerous. His first scientific article, "Impressions of Cuba," was the result of observations made during a visit to that island in 1860 for the recovery of his health, which was impaired by an attack of typhoid fever, brought on by exposure during a geological excursion along the north of Nova Scotia with the late Prof. Hartt. This article, published twenty-four years ago, has been lately cited with commendation by Dr. J. W. Spencer, a well-known scientist, lately director of the Geological Survey of Georgia.

For a time, between 1865 and 1870, Mr. Matthew was engaged in the study of botany, undertaken in connection with geology as necessary to the understanding of remains of fossil plants. At this time he wrote the article on Arctic and Western Plants in Continental Acadia. This article was written to show the sources from which the New Brunswick flora had been derived.

From 1870 to 1877 he was chiefly engaged in exploring, and writing reports on the geology of New Brunswick.