

a valuable gold watch, chain and seal, and a beautiful illuminated address, expressing appreciation of his services to the city. In 1875 he was elected Vice-President of the Capital Mutual Building Society of Ottawa, and the following year president, which latter position he held until the termination of the Society in 1884. We have good authority for stating that in no single instance did Mr. Waller seek for any of the positions to which he was elected. He was solicited in every case. In 1879 he was appointed to the office of Registrar of the County of Carleton by the Mowat Administration, which office he at present holds. The selection gave general satisfaction, and the duties of the office are most satisfactorily performed. Mr. Waller is a member of the Catholic faith; but in his religious views is very liberal. Since his acceptance of office he has ceased to be a politician. Prior to taking office, he acted with the Reform party. He married at Toronto in October, 1860, Miss Jane Nolan, daughter of John Nolan, of Moyne, Co. Mayo, Ireland. He has two sons and two daughters. Mr. Waller is about 5 ft. 10 inches high, is of slender build, but wiry, active and full of energy. He is studiously inclined; has always set a great value on time. He is very fond of music, poetry, gardening and horticulture, and in the latter pursuits, in spare hours, finds pleasure, profit, mental relaxation and health. These tastes, in his case, are not incompatible with practical business talent or ability. He is a fluent speaker, and his style as a writer is racy and practical. He has the courage of his convictions; and, on all subjects on which he treats, says exactly what he thinks. His lecture on "The Irish in Canada," of a few years ago, was a very popular effort, being referred to by nearly every newspaper in Ontario in terms of commendation. He is civil and obliging in disposition, "gentle when stroked, fierce (only) when provoked." He has no taste for public balls, dinners and levees, but can enjoy the company of small social gatherings of persons of congenial tastes. In the domestic circle he is social and hospitable. Mr. Waller's success, in his adopted country, is one of the many evidences of what can be accomplished by well-directed personal endeavour and persevering industry.

Dawson, Sir J. William, M. A., LL.D., F.R.S., C.M.G., etc., one of the most distinguished living geologists, was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1820. He received

his early training in the College of Pictou, Nova Scotia. It is related that while engaged in his studies here the thoughtful young classman made extensive collections in the natural history of the province. Here we had given to us the dawn of an unusually brilliant scientific career. Leaving Pictou, young Dawson went to the University of Edinburgh, where he remained for a winter, returning again to Nova Scotia, where he began with ardour his geological researches. In 1842 Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent geologist, visited Nova Scotia, and he had for companion with him during his tour through the province the promising young graduate of Pictou. In 1846 young Dawson returned to the University of Edinburgh to study practical chemistry and other subjects bearing upon the prosecution of geological research. Four years later he was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. He was active in organizing the Normal School in that Province, and was appointed by Sir Edmund Head a member of a commission to regulate the affairs of King's College, now the University of New Brunswick. For many ways he interested himself in the promotion of education, but he never lost sight of the pursuit so near to his heart and his brain. In 1855 he was appointed to the position which he now holds of Principal and Professor of Natural History in McGill College and University in Montreal. Under his enlightened direction, McGill College has come to establish for itself a reputation over the world. From a paper on Dr. Dawson, published in 1875 by the *Popular Science Monthly*, we make the following excerpt:—"A review of his more important scientific labours will show us how much may be done, even in the midst of engrossing educational occupations. As early as 1830 Dr. Dawson began to make collections of the fossil plants of the Nova Scotia coal formation. In 1841 he contributed to the Wernerian Society of Edinburgh his first scientific paper, on the species of field-mice found in Nova Scotia. In 1843 he communicated a paper on the rocks of Eastern Nova Scotia to the Geological Society of London; this was followed in 1844 by a paper on the newer coal formation. In 1845, besides exploring and reporting on the iron mines of Londonderry, Nova Scotia, he published a paper on the coal formation plants of that province. During the winter of 1846-47, while studying in Edinburgh, he contributed to the Royal Society of that city papers on the