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15. Owing to failing health he resigned his position at McGill University in 1893, and six years later, on a Sunday morning in November, passed peacefully away. Sir William Dawson was one of the greatest of Canadians, "fit," it has been well said, "to be the example of the thousands of young men who frequent a university," for he was as remarkable for gentleness, kindness and courtesy as for perseverance, firmness and courage in meeting difficulties.