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SIR WILLIAM LOGAN.

This page presents a portrait of a very eminent person, whose official position as director of the Geological Survey of Canada, is second to the avocations of no public servant in the Province; possibly it may exceed any or all the services of other public men put together. The geology of the province involves its future character in all the phases of industrial, social and national development. This gentleman is a F. R. G. S. (Fellow of the Royal Geological Society) and F. R. S. (Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.)

For this memoir we are indebted to Mr. Morgan's book, entitled—'Sketches of celebrated Canadians, and of Persons connected with Canada.' In early numbers we shall introduce a series of descriptive articles on the geology of Canada, which may give Canadian readers a better idea of the land they live in, than they have acquired elsewhere. Mr. Morgan says:

Sir William Logan, the eminent and distinguished geologist, and one of the most scientific men that Canada can boast of having produced, is a Canadian bred and born. He first saw the light in Montreal in 1798. He pursued his studies at the High School, Edinburgh, Scotland, and graduated at the University of that city. In 1818 he entered the mercantile office of his uncle, Mr. Hart Logan, of London, and after a time became a partner in the firm. After returning to Canada for a short time, where his attention was drawn to the geological characteristics of this country, he again crossed the Atlantic in 1829 and took up his residence in Swansea, South Wales, as manager of copper smelting and coal mining operations, in which his uncle was interested; but

he left this situation soon after the death of the latter in 1838. During his seven year's residence in South Wales, Mr. Logan devoted himself to the study of the coal field of that region; and his minute and accurate maps and sections were adopted by the ordnance geological survey, and published by the government, under Sir Henry de la Beche's superintendence. He was the first to demonstrate that the stratum of under clay, as it was called, which always underlies coal beds, was the soil in which the coal vegetation grew. In 1842 Sir William visited the coal fields of Pennsylvania and Nova Scotia; and communicated several valuable memoirs

on the subject to the Geological Society of London. At this time he began an examination of the older palaeozoic rocks of Canada; and the celebrated geological survey of Canada having been commenced, he was appointed and still continues at its head, a trust which sufficiently indicates the high opinion entertained of his great abilities and attainments by the government. This preference is, however, nothing more than he is entitled to, considering the immense sacrifice which he has made: to remain in, and confine his studies to, a country endeared to him by all the ties of birth and station. It is a well known fact that he has refused sev-

eral offers from other governments for his services, including India, where a princely fortune is to be made by the geologist. In the course of his investigations upon the rocks of the Eastern Townships, which are the continuation of those of New England, Sir William has shown that, so far from being, as had been supposed, primitive azoic rocks, they are altered and crystallized palaeozoic strata; a fact, which, although suspected, had not hitherto been demonstrated, and which is the key to the geology of North-Eastern America. He found the rocks which form the Laurentid and Adirondac mountains, previously regarded as un-

servants of the public to survey and make discoveries at the public cost, and reserve to themselves the right to judge whether announcement of localities containing mineral treasures should be publicly made. As we understood Sir William Logan on that occasion, he thought that to inform the public where auriferous deposits were situated, of which he showed various specimens, would be detrimental to the well-being of the Province; that farmers would desert agriculture, mechanics and clerks their workshops and offices, to crowd into the auriferous regions in search of gold. We believe the Provincial government approved of concealment.

stratified, to be disturbed and altered sedimentary deposits of vast thickness, equal perhaps to all the hitherto known stratified rocks of the earth's crust. In 1851 Sir William represented Canada at the Great Exhibition in London; and had charge of the Canadian geological collection which had been made by himself or under his immediate direction. It was exhibited with great skill and judgment, displaying to the best advantages the mineral resources of Canada. The labor of arranging the specimens was very great, and so enthusiastic was he that frequently he sallied out at eight or ten in the morning, and would work for twelve hours without waiting to take refreshment.— He had the satisfaction of knowing that his countrymen appreciated his services. Medals in profusion were allotted to Canada, and the Royal Society of London elected Mr. Logan a fellow, the highest attainable British scientific distinction. He was also a commissioner from Canada at the Industrial Exhibition at Paris in 1855, when he received from the imperial commission the grand gold medal of honor, and was created a knight of the Legion of Honor. He received the honor of knighthood from the Queen's hands, in 1856; and in the same year was awarded by the geological Society, of which he has long been a member, the Wollaston Palladium medal, for his pre-eminent services in geology.

NOTE ABOUT GOLD BEARING ROCKS.—Two years ago we visited the Geological Museum at Montreal, which has been collected by Sir William Logan and assistants. The events of the passing day recall to mind what then elicited remark: that it is hardly within the optional discretion of the



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