

Current Events.

SIR WILLIAM DAWSON AS A TEACHER.

A noble life is ended, Canada's "Grand Old Man" has gone, but his memory will live with us as long as Canada has a history. To us—the teachers of Canada—he leaves an example of earnest, painstaking devotion to the calling that was his by choice and genius, which it would be almost impossible to rival. He was a great teacher because he was a great man. His reputation as a scientist was world wide. So fertile was his mind, that books and pamphlets on his favourite subjects of study—nature, education, the Bible—fairly rolled from his pen, giving glimpses of the powers behind the pen. To many of us was granted the inestimable privilege of attending McGill when the active, observant, keen mind of Sir William Dawson was its ruling power, and when the university was yet small enough to admit of its students coming in contact with the mind of the Principal. With what pleasure we recall the hours spent in the zoology and geology classes. In Sir William's classes in the university we had preeminently the advantages of the contact of mind with greater mind. Sir William talked, he did not lecture. He showed us a master mind at work in its own workshop among the wonders of nature. How the horizon of our knowledge seemed to retreat rapidly as he opened to us the secrets of mother earth. Time and again we had to pull ourselves together and determine mentally that we *would* take notes as the examinations were approaching. But the hand gradually moved more and more slowly over the paper, then ceased to move, and finally we came to ourselves with a start to find that we were again in the attitude of men listeners. But Sir William was a model teacher. He gave us a handbook, an outline, the bare skeleton of the subject to use out of class, while in his talks with us he filled out this scheme with marvellous word pictures. Hundreds upon hundreds of new terms we found it small effort to learn that we might keep in touch with the subjects as they advanced. He spared no pains to help those who needed assistance, often remaining long after the hours of lecture discussing