

of the most eminent English geologists of the day knew of mineralogy, and how uncertain in consequence was their diagnosis in the field of the nature of rock masses."

In 1841 he met, however, two men with whom he was afterwards intimately associated in his work—Sir Charles Lyell, who more than any other man gave form to modern geological science, and Sir William Logan, who gave the first great impetus to the study of the older rocks of the northern half of the North American continent, and who founded the Geological Survey of Canada.

In 1847 he married Margaret A. Y. Mercer, daughter of G. Mercer, Esq., of Edinburgh, and returned to Nova Scotia. Two years later he went to Halifax to give a course of lectures on natural history subjects in connection with Dalhousie College, and organized classes for practical work in mineralogy and palæontology. These were attended by students, citizens, and pupils of higher schools—a foreshadowing of university extension. In 1850, at the age of thirty, having already attracted some attention by the publication of a number of papers, reports, and lectures, he was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. His work in connection with this position obliged him to travel continually through all parts of the province and on these journeys he accumulated that immense mass of information concerning the geology and mineral resources of Nova Scotia which is incorporated in his largest work—that entitled "Acadian Geology."

Sir Charles Lyell, who, as above mentioned, on his first visit to America in 1841 met Sir William and was by him conducted to many places of geological interest in Nova Scotia, returned to Nova Scotia in 1852, and with Sir William continued his studies in Nova Scotian geology. In a letter to Leonard Horner, dated September 12th of this year, Lyell writes:

"My companion J. W. Dawson, is continually referring to the curious botanical points respecting calamites, endogenites, and other coal plants, on which light is thrown by certain specimens collected by him at Pictou. He told me that the root of the pond lily, *Nymphaea odorata*, most resembled *Stigmaria* in the regularity of its growth, and Dr. Robb showed me a dried specimen, a rhizoma, which, being of a totally different family, and therefore not strictly like, still suggests the probability of the *Stigmaria* having grown in slush in the same manner."

And in another part of the same letter, referring to the now celebrated Joggins section of the coast of Nova Scotia, he says:

"Dawson and I set to work and measured foot by foot many hundred yards of the cliffs, where forests of erect trees and calarites most