

and in 1842 accompanied Sir Charles Lyell on his scientific tour through the Province. He returned to Edinburgh in 1846, and again entered the College, devoting his attention principally to the study of practical chemistry. Subsequently he received from the Senatus the honorary degree of M. A. In 1850 he was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia—an office which he held for three years, during which he organized the schools of the Province under an amended educational law. On resigning this office, he was appointed one of the commissioners for establishing a Normal School, and afterward he served on the commission appointed by the late Sir Edmund Head to regulate the affairs of the University of New Brunswick. In 1855 he was offered his present position, which he has since held with honor to himself and great benefit to the University and the country. Dr. Dawson holds the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the McGill University, is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, of the Geological Society of London, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston; a Foreign Corresponding Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society, and a Fellow or Corresponding Member of several scientific societies in the United States. He has been several times elected as a President of the Natural History Society of Montreal—a society in the growth of which he has taken a very active part.

His contributions to the literature of natural science have been extensive, among which may be mentioned twenty-five papers published in the proceedings of the Geological Society of London, containing the results of his original researches in the geology of North America; a work of 700 pages entitled, "Acadian Geology"—a second edition of which was published at Edinburgh in 1868; "Archæia, or Studies of the Cosmogony and Natural History of the Hebrew Scriptures;" besides educational and scientific works of a more local

character, and numerous contributions to the *Canadian Naturalist* and other periodicals. His reputation abroad is chiefly as a geologist, in connection with numerous and important discoveries in the geology of British America and in general geology; and he is now giving a popular exposition of his views on this subject in a series of articles in course of publication, in London, in the columns of the *Leisure Hour*.

Dr. Dawson has not confined his labors solely to the duties of his position, and to his geological investigations, but has bestowed them freely for the benefit of society by popular lectures and otherwise. He was for several years Superintendent of the Sunday-School of Erskine Church (Canada Presbyterian), of which he is a member. He has conducted with rare ability Bible classes both in that congregation and in connection with the Young Mens' Christian Association, and he has also rendered important service in connection with the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, the Canada Sunday-School Union and other religious and charitable societies in the city. By his consistency, piety, learning, ability and wisdom, he has rendered great aid to the cause of Protestant Christianity, and, we may add, to the Temperance cause in the City of Montreal and in the Province; and in these times, when a knowledge of science is so often found associated with scepticism, the example which his life presents is a valuable and instructive one.

Of the wonderful growth of the University of McGill College under his charge, it is needless to speak, for the facts are widely known; suffice it to say that we can point with pride to a Canadian scholar who has been mainly instrumental in building up a first-class University, whose fame has extended through both hemispheres, and who is a bright example of the genius of our country.

The portrait is from an excellent photograph by Mr. Notman of Montreal.