

shells in the blue clay, the waste waterway, where leaves and twigs became "petrifications," the lively brook where mimic fleets could be navigated and dams constructed—these and many other objects of interest were there, and with the guidance and encouragement of an ever-ready father, the boy's inborn love of nature was daily stimulated and increased.

At ten years of age Dawson entered the Montreal High School, remaining there for one year and taking a high place in his classes. Subsequently, however, owing to ill-health, his education was carried on for the most part under tutors; and while this system, no doubt, cut him off from some advantages, it gave him on the other hand wider opportunities for pursuing and mastering subjects which had special attractions for him. Surrounded by books, chemical apparatus, paints and pencils, the days were never too long, and photography, book-binding, painting magic lantern slides, and even cheese-making, afforded him fascinating occupation and amusement. One who knew him well at that time says: "He seemed to absorb knowledge rather than to study, and every new fact or idea acquired was at once put into its place and proper relations in his orderly mind. He was always cheerful, amusing and popular, other boys flocking around him and invariably submitting to his unconcealed leadership."

At the age of eighteen, Dawson entered McGill College as a partial student, attending lectures on English, Chemistry, Geology, &c., during the session of 1868-9. The summer of 1869 was spent at Gaspé and much time devoted to dredging for foraminifera, which with material from other sources formed the basis of his first scientific paper, published in the Canadian Naturalist in 1870, and in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History of the following year. While a student at McGill he wrote a poem on Jacques Cartier which, as a boyish effort was thought very well of by his instructors as evidence of his keen love of nature and poetic instinct. The poem on the summit of Mount Royal, whither Cartier was conducted by the red men of Hochelaga, is thus described:

"Far on the western river lay,
Like molten gold, the dying day.
Far to the east the waters glide
Till lost in twilight's swelling tide;
While all around, on either hand,
Spread the broad, silent, tree-clad land;
And in the distance far and blue
Long swelling mountains close the view."

In 1870 Dawson went to London and entered the Royal School of Mines, at that time on Jermyn street. He was fond of the sea, and on