

a herculean task before him, but with unfaltering courage, with a steadfast purpose, and with an unwavering faith in the ultimate triumph of devotion to duty, he fought against obstacles which would have driven most men from the field, building step by step and literally growing the straw wherewith his bricks were made; and thus he laid, broad and deep, the foundations of a monument to enlightenment and progress, which will stand as a beacon light in the intellectual advancement of Canada as long as her name shall endure. How well he wrought we all know; of the great difficulties he had to overcome and the tremendous energy and resolution with which this was accomplished, few can form an adequate conception, except those of his colleagues who were intimately associated with him in his work. Since his retirement in 1893 the University has gained greatly in material resources, but these must be recognized as the final fruition of plans which were laid securely in the years long since past; and in estimating the relative importance of the university progress at various periods, it must not be overlooked that those grand achievements which have been possible within the last half decade, would have been altogether impossible had not the foundation upon which they are reared been laid with the greatest sagacity and foresight during a period of nearly half a century.

Sir William Dawson's work as an educationist was by no means limited to the University; it was comprehensive and embraced the entire educational system of the Province. His influence was felt not only in every town and village of the Dominion, but it extended to various parts of the United States and Europe. Possessed of a versatile and comprehensive mind he carried on numerous and exacting scientific researches in the midst of the multiform and perplexing cares incident to the administration of a growing university, the exactions of the class room, and the demands of numerous public affairs, in all of which he took an active interest, lending his influence wherever and whenever it would advance the common good. It is impossible at this time to make more than passing reference to the great volume of his scientific work which placed him among the foremost geologists of his time, but it is proper to point out that his great versatility of talent made him equally conspicuous in other departments of scientific work, although his fame as a geologist has often caused this fact to be lost sight of. His scientific work may be said to have commenced in 1846 when, in company with Sir Charles Lyall, he made a tour through Nova Scotia and examined the deposits at the Joggins, which he revisited in 1852 and subsequently made famous through his descriptions of the fossils there found.

Apart from his geological work, he found opportunity to carry his researches into the domain of Botany, where his wonderful energy produced extended results. An incomplete list of his botanical writings shows no less than seventy-six titles upon a great variety of topics, but his efforts were chiefly directed toward the study of fossil plants. In this field of research he occupied a position which made him the connecting link between the cruder methods of the Old School, and the more refined methods of the New School. He was the first on this continent to apply to the study of fossil plants the same methods of histological research which had been followed with so much success by Goeppert