

places of geological interest in Nova Scotia, and on his subsequent visit in 1852 they together continued their studies in Nova Scotian Geology.

About this time the governing body of McGill College at Montreal were looking about for some one fitted to assume the Principalship of the Institution, and to re-organize it.

The College, founded by Royal Charter in 1821, had made but slow progress in its earlier years, and was at this time, through litigation and other causes, almost in a state of collapse. Sir William—then Mr. Dawson—was pointed out to the Governors of the College by Sir Edmund Head, then Governor-General of Canada, as a man who, if his services could be secured, was eminently fitted to undertake the task of reconstructing the University. In the meantime, ignorant of all this, he was prosecuting a candidature for the chair of Natural History in his Alma Mater, the University of Edinburgh, rendered vacant by the death of Professor Edward Forbes, and in which he was strongly supported by the leading geologists of the time. By a strange coincidence, just as he was about to leave Halifax for England in connection with this candidature, intelligence arrived that the Edinburgh chair had been filled at an earlier date than his friends had anticipated, and at the same time a letter was received offering him the Principalship of McGill.

The services of Mr. Dawson were accordingly secured, and in 1855 he assumed the Principalship of McGill College, stipulating at the same time that the chair of Natural History should be assigned to him.

Sir William Logan, in a letter to his brother, James Logan, dated November 29th, 1855, writes as follows:—  
“I see by the newspapers that my friend, Mr. Dawson, has been regularly installed as Principal of McGill College. He will be a support to the Survey, for he is really a man of science.”