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OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. 4.—SIR WILLIAM LOGAN, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.

The seething political strife incident to the rapid development of the art of government in young communities generally draws within its vortex the best talent of the people, so that in such communities the "great men" are to be looked for mainly in the ranks of those who have won distinction in political life. There is, however, occasionally an exception to this general tendency. Sometimes a Colonist rises to distinction in Science, Literature, or Art, and spreads his own fame and that of his country amongst circles wherein the names of Colonial politicians are held as of trivial account. Though such men do not receive the popular plaudits in the same demonstrative fashion, yet they are held in no less esteem by their own people than are those who have won their spurs in the political arena. The unobtrusive nature of their studies or employments conceals them from the public gaze; it is only when the results are manifested that appreciation of their labours is awakened. Canada has produced a fair share of these patient and successful workers in the great laboratories of Science and Literature; and we this week present our readers with the portrait of one of the most eminent—Sir W. E. Logan, late Director of the Geological Survey of Canada—whose researches and discoveries have placed him in the front rank among the Geologists of the age, and made his name familiar and respected among men of Science throughout the world.

William Edmund Logan was born at Montreal in 1798. His grand-father, James Logan, was a U. E. loyalist, who migrated from the State of New York, and became the owner of the property now so familiarly known in Montreal as "Logan's farm." Our illustrious Geologist therefore belongs to the sturdy old British stock, whose settlement in Canada during the time of the American

Revolution did so much to perpetuate, among the Canadian people, a strong sentiment of loyalty to the Crown, the enthusiastic ardour of which not unfrequently surprises the matter-of-fact old world Briton. His education, commenced in Montreal, was completed at the University of Edinburgh. In 1818 he entered the employment of his

uncle, Mr. Hart Logan, a London merchant, with whom he remained for about ten years. In 1829 he accepted the management of a Copper Smelting Work at Swansea, Glamorganshire, in Wales, and at the same time superintended his uncle's interest in a neighbouring Coal Mine. His uncle dying in 1838, Mr. Logan resigned both trusts,

and soon afterwards gave the world the benefit of those scientific researches in which, during his nine year's residence in South Wales, he had been actively engaged. In a paper printed in the *Canadian Journal* (1836) Mr. Sanford Fleming, C. E., says of Mr. Logan:—"At an early period he made a very valuable collection of the birds and insects common to Canada, included in which were many species previously unknown, which he subsequently presented to the Institution at Swansea, of which he was one of the founders. . . . It was during his residence in South Wales that he performed a work which has been declared by the first scientific men in Europe, to be "unrivalled in its time, and never surpassed since." This great work was his Geological Map and Sections of Glamorganshire Coal Field, the minuteness and accuracy of which were such that when the Government Survey, under Sir Henry de la Beche, came to South Wales, not one single line drawn by Mr. Logan was found to be incorrect, and the whole was approved and published without alteration." Mr. Fleming also mentions that Mr. Logan's system in following out the details of the Coal Field was so much superior to any formerly in use, that it was adopted by the British Survey, and "Mr. Logan's Map may be said to be the model one of the whole collection." Mr. Logan, with characteristic devotion to Science, and forgetfulness of self, presented these fruits of his labours to the British Government without fee or remuneration. About this time Mr. Logan also contributed some interesting papers to the Geological Society on "Stigmaria



SIR WILLIAM LOGAN.—From a photograph by Notman.