

HENRY M. AMI, M.A., D. Sc., F.G.S.

Ottawa, Ont.

AMONG the well-known officials of late years in connection with the Geological Survey Department at Ottawa is Henry M. Ami, M.A., D. Sc., F.G.S., whose efforts and achievements in the way of scientific research since he joined the staff in 1882, have won for him no mean distinction. Mr. Ami is a Canadian by birth, having been born in the village of Belle Rivière, county of Two Mountains, Que., Nov. 23rd, 1858. His father, Rev. Marc J. A. Ami, was a native of Geneva, Switzerland; born of Protestant parents, and after studying in his own country and eastern France, with Mr. Henri Jaquet, the leading missionary spirit of his time, he came to Canada in 1853, as a missionary in the Lower Province. On his way out he was in the wreck of the ill-fated vessel, the *Annie Jane*, which was wrecked off the west coast of Scotland, and he and a few others were the only survivors, out of over three hundred passengers. Since coming to this country, Rev. Mr. Ami has been constantly engaged in missionary and ministerial work, chiefly in Ontario and Quebec. He was for some years pastor of the French Presbyterian church in Ottawa, and at present is stationed in the New England States. For many years he had a noble assistant in the person of his wife, a most estimable woman, who courageously shared all the trials which, in those days, were inseparable from the work of French evangelization. Madame Ami, whose maiden name was Giramaire, was a native of France, having been born in Glay (Daubs), in the arrondissement of Montbeliard, the home of the Carriers, and the cradle of Protestantism in France. From the date of her coming to Canada in 1854, till her death in July, 1886, she devoted herself unceasingly to works of benevolence and charity in connection with her husband's evangelistic work. In this connection it may be noted that Rev. Mr. Ami and his wife were among the first Protestant missionaries who came to Canada to evangelize the French, and though they endured much trouble and persecution for a time, their labors were eventually crowned with success. The subject of our sketch received his primary education in the way of private tuition, subsequently attending the public school and collegiate institution in Ottawa, and in 1877 he entered McGill College, Montreal. Here, having developed a decided taste for the study of natural science, he received the training and education best suited to his inclinations, and under the able and distinguished Sir William Logan, he made rapid progress during his course at McGill. He followed the honor curriculum in natural sciences,

botany, geology and paleontology occupying most of his attention, and he was successful in obtaining various scholarships and prizes. He also attended lectures for a year in the law faculty, and in 1882 he received the degree of B.A. Previous to his graduating, he had been appointed to a position on the palaeontological staff of the Geological Survey of Canada, shortly after the removal of the museum from Montreal to Ottawa, and on leaving McGill he at once entered upon his new duties. Since that time he has been one of the most diligent and enthusiastic workers in the department, and he has made many valuable contributions to the literature of scientific research. These include upwards of twenty-five papers and reports on scientific subjects, embracing the palaeontology of the different provinces of the Dominion, especially in palaeozoic rocks. Special mention may be made of his paper on "The Geology of Quebec and Environs," (published in 1891), which was read before the Geological Society at Washington in December, 1890, and which attracted a great amount of attention both in America and among European geologists, as tending to solve the Quebec group in geology, which, for upwards of thirty years had been a disputed point. This was a continuation of the work which had been prosecuted in this direction by Sir William Logan. In 1885, Mr. Ami visited Europe specially to carry on palaeontological investigations in England, France and Switzerland. In the following year he was intrusted with the charge of the separation of the geological formations in Central Ontario, and in 1887 he made an examination of the fossil remains of the Arisaig shores in Nova Scotia. In 1889, he again went to Europe, visiting the glacial formations of Switzerland, and making investigations which have since greatly facilitated his work at home. In 1891, his work in British Columbia, in connection with the mineral formations in that Province, proved a great success. His special work, however, during the past ten years, has been the determination and classification of the palaeozoic fossils of Eastern Canada, with special reference to the disturbed regions of the Province of Quebec, and in this he has been highly successful, as the records of the department will show. In addition to this he has, during the same period, given considerable attention to the natural history resources of Ottawa and vicinity, in connection with the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. His first paper on geology was read before that organization at Ottawa in the fall of 1881, while, the winter immediately following saw his first work on "The Utica Formation of Canada," which was read before the Natural History Society of Montreal, and also before the O. F. N. C. at Ottawa. Then followed notes on *Friarthrus*