

Every summer the members of this society go on geological excursions and in search of specimens of the Canadian flora and fauna. After arriving at their destination, a number of fossils and other specimens are collected and placed before Sir William Dawson, who explains in simple, concise terms, the lessons in the stones and flowers. His short talks on such occasions have a good influence over young minds, stimulating them to study Nature herself rather than the lumber of text books.

Among his many other good qualities, Sir William is a pleasing public speaker. He does not believe in the cheap kind of speaking that some people call oratory; but on all occasions his quiet behavior on the platform and the charm of his diction are sure to interest his hearers and hold their attention from the time he begins until he has finished. When President of McGill University, at convocation, the Board of Governors and the large audiences that usually assemble on such occasions used to await his words with as much interest as a Canadian parliament awaits the opening speech of the Premier on the government policy.

Although seventy-four years of age, Sir William Dawson is not yet on the supernumerary list. A little more than a year ago, he read a valuable paper at the World's Fair, and is at present engaged in making geological research. Last summer he paid a visit to Cumberland County, Nova Scotia, for the purpose of collecting fossils, presumably for a forthcoming book. His life's work has been not only valuable to Canadians but to the whole world. He has added something to the common stock of knowledge, and I can see no reason why his name should not be handed down to coming generations. He will probably rank favorably with Louis Agassiz and Asa Gray. Perhaps, when the history of science comes to be rewritten in the future, the name of Sir William Dawson may be placed on a level with that of Tyndall or Lord Kelvin. But time alone can determine this question. One thing, however, is pretty certain—his name will never be forgotten in the history of Canada.

I. O. '96.