

Accordingly, we find that he was sent to Potsdam Academy, in the State of New York, to prosecute his studies. Here he remained for some considerable period, paying special attention to mathematics, with the view of fitting himself for a land surveyor. He does not appear, however, to have had any special liking for this profession, for he soon gave it up, and betook himself to other avocations. Between the years 1842—52, he held various appointments, such as Clerk of the Crown, Clerk of the Bankrupt Court, Registrar of the Surrogate Court, &c., &c.

In the fall of 1854, he removed with his family to Prescott, where he was appointed General Agent of the Bytown & Prescott Railway. He subsequently, and up to within a short time of his death, held other offices in connection with the same Company. He remained in Prescott until the spring of 1863, when he returned to Ottawa, where he afterward permanently resided. It was while living in Prescott that he began, systematically, the study of Botany and Entomology. These continued to be his favourite branches, although he also gave some attention to Geology and Mineralogy.

Mr. Billings' Botanical collection, which pretty thoroughly exhausted the field around Prescott and Ottawa, consisted of 1897 species, and embraced about one half of the entire number contained in Gray's Manual. It is now the property of the Ottawa Scientific and Literary Society. His collection of Entomological specimens was also extensive and valuable. Besides contributing to the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, and to various private collections, he presented a large assortment of Coleoptera and Lepidoptera to the Literary and Scientific Society of Ottawa. Considering the very limited opportunities at his disposal, it is surprising that he was able to accomplish so much as he did. His close and unremitting attention to his office duties might have been supposed to discourage him in the prosecution of his favorite researches. But such was not the case. When the day's work was over, it was to him always a source of the highest enjoyment to get away into the country, and hold converse with Nature. He loved not merely the flowers, he also enjoyed the haunts where they are to be found. By the lonely river-bank

"He lingered many summer hours,  
Deep in the olden forests he sought the sweet wild flowers."

In later years his attention was mainly directed to Entomology, and to it he devoted every spare hour that chance threw in his way. He was often to be met with, net in hand, in out-of-the-way places, following his