

various geological formations of eastern Canada, involving numerous and difficult problems which made it a task of no mean importance, but fraught with results that the world of to-day can, not only appreciate, but esteem, as amongst the best performed work it has to consult.

His first geological paper was published in April, 1854, and was entitled "On Some New Genera and Species of Cystidea from the Trenton Limestone." It was published in the "Canadian Journal," Toronto, page 215. On removing to Montreal in 1856, Mr. Billings removed also the headquarters of his Magazine—"The Canadian Naturalist and Geologist"; from that date on the same was published in Montreal under the same designation and under the name of "Canadian Naturalist and Quarterly Journal of Science." until 1883, when it was superseded by the "Canadian Record of Science," and became the recognized official organ of the Natural History Society of Montreal. Of this Society he was regularly elected a Vice-president for 14 years, having declined the office of President proffered to him on many occasions.

In 1858 Mr. Billings paid a visit to Europe, where he came in contact with leading geologists of the time and examined the various collections in geology throughout Great Britain. These he studied most zealously and made a comparative study of the Silurian (including both the lower and the upper Silurian of Murchison) and Devonian fossils of Western Europe with those of Canada and arrived at the conclusion that there were but few species identical with those of Canada. In April 1858, when in London he was elected a F. G. S. (Fellow of the Geological Society of London); Sir Roderick Murchison, Professor A. Ramsay, and Prof. T. H. Huxley, having nominated him. He visited Paris where he met a number of distinguished men, amongst others the great Bohemian palæontologist, the Abbé Joachim Barrande, with whom, and in conjunction with Sir William Logan a most interesting discussion arose regarding the age of several rock formations occurring in the Province of Quebec, to which Sir William Logan gave the name "Quebec Group"—a controversy which included many difficult problems and in which the "Taconic Question" was a conspicuous factor.

The term "Quebec Group" will invariably be associated with