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THE QUEBEC GROUP OF SIR WILLIAM LOGAN.

By J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S.

Being the Annual Address of the President of the Natural  
History Society of Montreal, for 1879.

The scientific business of the Society in the past winter has included the reading at our monthly meetings of ten papers, comprising a considerable range of subjects. In Geology we have had papers by Dr. Harrington and myself on the mineralogy and mode of occurrence of Apatite; by Dr. Hunt on the various new points which engaged his attention in Europe in the summer of 1878; by Mr. Selwyn and Mr. Macfarlane on the disputed Stratigraphy of Eastern Canada; by Mr. Donald on the remains of a Fossil Elephant; by myself on the Extinct Floras of America. In other departments were Notes on Canadian Ferns by Mr. Goode; on an Esquimaux Bow and Arrow by Mr. Taylor; on the results of an Excursion to St. Jerome by Mr. Marler and Mr. Caulfield; on the Water supply of Montreal by Dr. Baker Edwards.

Of all these subjects that which has perhaps excited the greatest amount of attention, and which best deserves notice here, is the much disputed Geology of the Quebec Group and the associated rocks in the Province of Quebec. This is a subject which has long been in controversy, and which is mixed up with some of the most difficult questions in general geology and in the local structure of the eastern slope of the American continent, both in Canada and the United States. It is a subject on which I have up to the present time avoided any public expression of opinion:—not that I have been indifferent to it—no geologist could be so—nor that I have had no opinions of my own. Having travelled over and examined large portions of the territory occupied by these rocks, it was impossible to avoid arriving at some interpretation of them. But the subject was too intricate to be lightly treated, and others were working at it in detail, and with advantages of public aid which I did not possess. Now, however, it comes up before this Society, introduced in the elaborate and able paper of Mr. Selwyn, followed by the criticisms of Mr. Macfarlane; and these supplemented by Dr. Sterry Hunt's ex-