

Sketch of Prof. Ch. Fred. Hartt.

Few lives present a more inspiring example to the student than that of Prof. Charles Frederick Hartt, whose portrait is here given. In a short but brilliant scientific career he achieved results that are almost incredible, and that have made his name known throughout the world. And it was in our own rugged climate, amid the fostering influences of our own educational institutions, in a home where Christian principles were held as the most sacred trust, that those talents and capabilities that gained such signal triumphs were nurtured.

Prof. Hartt was born at Fredericton in 1840 and died at Rio Janeiro, Brazil, March, 1878. Shortly after his birth his family removed to Nova Scotia, and he was educated under the guidance of his father, Jarvis W. Hartt, then Principal at Horton Academy, and graduated from Acadia College at the age of twenty. He gave evidence in very early life of a fondness for natural science. Joined to a passionate love of nature, he possessed a careful and enquiring mind, and his persevering and accurate habits of study admirably fitted him for the minute and searching explorations which he afterwards undertook and so successfully accomplished. He possessed great versatility of talent. A language, music, drawing, were easily acquired by him. He attained such proficiency in Portuguese, the elements of which he learned from a shoemaker at Wolfville, N. S., that he lectured in this language to cultivated audiences in Rio Janeiro. The results



CHARLES FREDERICK HARTT, A.M.

of his keen observation and the original investigations which he carried on, even before he left college, brought him under the notice of Professor J. W. Dawson, who greatly encouraged him in his early scientific researches. Prof. Hartt was graduated from Acadia in June, 1860. In the same year he came to St. John, where his father established the High School, in which he was assisted by his son. But the geology of this region proved of such absorbing interest to him that his mind became restive

under the routine work of a school. He afterwards made one of the best of teachers when he mastered his favorite study, — ever enthusiastic and thoroughly absorbed in science, his pupils everywhere, interested in the same pursuits, shared his deep and earnest enthusiasm. His passion for science never flagged from the moments when pausing by the roadside at the age of seven he broke open and gazed at the fragments of rock, until death laid its hand upon him in the midst of his life work in Brazil.

It had been ascertained several years before Mr. Hartt came to St. John through the

observations of Dr. Gesner, Prof. Robb and Mr. Matthew, that the series of Devonian Ledges on the Lancaster sea beach were fossiliferous, some plant remains having been found there by these gentlemen. These discoveries proved so interesting and valuable to science that Professor (now Sir Wm.) Dawson paid a visit to the locality; and the results of his examinations were shortly afterwards published.

In the summer of 1862 Mr. Hartt spent thirty days at the Fern Ledges, discovering many new