

the trend of thought of the man whose subsequent life led him into enquiries of the highest scientific type, whose writings are now held in the highest esteem and well known the whole scientific world over. It was during these years of residence in Bytown that he began the systematic study of the fossiliferous rocks which are so extensively developed along the banks of the Ottawa River in the vicinity of our city. Probably at first entered upon more as a pastime and relaxation from his journalistic duties, these researches culminated in his final adoption of geological studies, especially in the department of fossil organic remains, for the remainder of his life. The magnificent collections of crinoids, cystideans and star-fishes from the Trenton limestone of Ottawa that are now exhibited in the Museum of the Geological Survey of Canada, testify to his remarkable success and energies in these researches, for it must be remarked that these organisms are extremely rare and great diligence as well as patience must be exercised if satisfactory results are to be expected.

Early in 1856 Mr. Billings issued the first number of the "Canadian Naturalist," of which and the succeeding numbers of the first volume he was practically the sole contributor. The production of this number marks an epoch in the history of the progress of scientific research and discussion in Canada. The articles contained in the first volume of the "Canadian Naturalist, and Geologist" at once stamp Mr. Billings as a master in the description of fossil organic remains as well as of recent natural history objects.

Previous to the issue of this magazine, Mr. Billings had been brought into direct communication with Sir William Logan, then Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, and it was not long, yea, but few months elapsed, before the latter with his usual clear-sightedness engaged the services of Mr. Billings, his friend, as Palæontologist to the Geological Survey of Canada. It was in August, 1856, that Mr. Billings entered upon his duties as Government Palæontologist, and until his death which took place June 14, 1876, a period of nearly twenty years elapsed in which he worked ceaselessly in the domain of palæontology and in assisting his chief and director in assigning geological horizons to the