

laid out in a cupboard where he kept his childish treasures." This little cupboard was the birthplace of the Peter Redpath Museum. The specimens were referred with much trepidation to one or two local geologists; exchanges were made, and the scientific career of this assiduous collector had begun.

The treasures of those boyish days were faithfully preserved, and brought to Montreal, where they were long afterwards destroyed by fire. The first book of a scientific nature, which he possessed, was a copy of Mohs's Mineralogy, and from it he learned that most important of all lessons,—correlation of science—that the mysteries of solid geometry and trigonometry had been materialized in the crystals of quartz, calcite, and zeolites, which he had collected from the ballast piles on the wharves, or from the quarries and cliffs of the coast.

These studies bore fruit in a lecture which he delivered before a local society at the rather immature age of sixteen, upon the Structure and History of the Earth, which was a considerable undertaking for so young a child.

There was a visit as far as Boston, and a comparison of the molasses to be found south of Cape Cod with those in Northumberland Strait. But the most important excursions were to the cliffs on Cumberland Bay, an arm of the Bay of Fundy, known as the South Joggins; to Minas Basin which afforded intricate studies in the complicated relations of the volcanic rocks with beds of sandstone and carboniferous shales; to Cape Blondin, that remarkable outflow of volcanic rock over the Triassic sandstone which underlies it.

Upon his return from Edinburgh in 1841 he fell in with Sir Charles Lyell and Sir William Logan. From Lyell he learned that great man's secret, which was the continuity of geological history, and the identity of effects. From Logan he learned the importance of correct observation and a reverence for facts as preliminary to a formulation of theories. With him he wrought in many a field, and laid the foundation of much of his fame. The joint discovery with Lyell of reptilian remains in the erect trunk of a fossil tree at the South Joggins was pregnant with results, one of which was the publication, in 1855, of his "Acadian Geology." This important book contained an account of the first discovery of reptilian remains in the coal formations, of the first known palæozoic land shells, and of *albertite*, that curious product of the lower carboniferous age.

When Sir William Dawson was appointed Principal of McGill the demands upon his time and attention were such that he was obliged to forgo largely the work in his favourite fields of investigation. For several years he worked, chiefly in the summer, at the Pleistocene forma-