

Fellow, Honorary or Corresponding Member of at least thirty other important British or Foreign Academies, Societies, Institutes and Associations. In all these events even a formal biographer would find sufficient material ready at his hand.

The life of Sir William Dawson was one of singular publicity and openness. His career was bound up with the educational, scientific, social and religious movements of nearly half a century in Canada and in the world at large. He touched life at all these points, and there is abundant information as to the part which he played in their development. It would be a worthy enterprise to set forth adequately all the facts in his life, and bring them into relation with contemporary events. The most which can be attempted here is to set forth the facts themselves, to give some impression of the man, and indicate the process by which he stamped indelibly his personality upon McGill University and upon his generation. Yet in this small undertaking we may get some notion, to employ a favourite word of his own, as to what he meant to the world.

The amount of work which Sir William Dawson accomplished was great, and it is only by comparison that one can convey any adequate idea either of its compass or of its volume. Men who are in the habit of writing will gain some notion of his industry from the statement that he left behind him nearly 14,000 pages of printed matter. Professors in the University may be weaned away from brooding over their own wrongs by the reflection that for many years he delivered twenty lectures a week and wrote the text-books besides. Geologists may check their own work by his accumulation of material which is sufficient to fill a museum. And all this was merely a by-product of his main business, which was the direction of a rapidly growing University.

I am not putting forward a claim to having read this mass of printed material, nor should I have understood any considerable portion of it, if I had undertaken that labour. Yet I confess to a knowledge of all which has been written upon the various events of his life, and would mention with especial satisfaction his own record of fifty years of scientific and educational work in Canada, as embodied in his Autobiographical Notes which have been arranged by his son. The ingenuousness and singular sincerity of these Notes make them an adequate source of information, and one of the most charming bits of biography with which I am acquainted. In them also there are passages of beauty and poignancy. Two examples will serve for illustration:

"What shall I say of my mother? What can any one say of a loving mother to the careless world? She was a woman of deep affections, and of many sorrows, aggravated by a disposition not too hopeful