Junior Assistant, he was ultimately appointed by Professor Hofmann to the position of Assistant in his Research Laboratory, which post he held for some years.

It was nowlong after his relinquishment of the same, that he—on the 30th May, 1861, left England for Natal, South Africa, where he was for over three years engaged under Dr. Robert James Mann, F.R.A.S., Superintendent-General of Education in Natal,—for the first three months in carrying out the general preparations for the Natal contributions to the International Exhibition of 1862, and subsequently in divers work of a scientific nature.

At the close of this period he availed himself of an opportunity which then presented itself of visiting Mauritius, with a view of acquiring some knowledge of the Flora of that island and, in furtherance of that design, he there passed close upon ten months, and after that proceeded to Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, where he arrived in October 1865.

Shortly after his reaching Melbourne, he was appointed to take charge of the Phytochemical Laboratory attached to the Melbourne Botanic Garden, which was at that time under the Directorate of Dr. Ferdinand Mueller, M.D., Ph. D., LL.D., F.R.S. (afterwards Baron Sir Ferdinand von Mueller, K.C.M.G., et cætera). This position he retained for rather more than five years, when he relinquished the same and returned to England, with the intention of afterwards proceeding to Germany and there taking up the Study of Medicine. On his arrival in England, however, circumstances led him to question the advisability of his carrying out this design and he therefore, in lieu of so doing, after a brief stay, went to Canada.

Somewhat closely following his arrival in that country, he became a member of the Staff of the Geological Survey of Canada, at that time under the Directorate of Alfred R. C. Selwyn, F.R.S., F.G.S. (afterwards Dr. Alfred, R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S.),—at first (1872-79) as Assistant Chemist and Mineralogist, then (1879-80) as Acting Chemist and Mineralogist, subsequently (in 1880) as Chemist and Mineralogist, and later on (in 1883) he was further appointed an Assistant Director of the Survey. His occupancy of these several positions extended over a period of close upon thirty-five years, that is to say, up to the first of April, 1907, when, in pursuance of his application for retirement, and the granting of the same, his connection with the Survey ceased.