

we can only say that in Dr. Whiteaves, the Government has had an earnest and painstaking officer as successor to the eminent name of Billings.

THE PORTRAIT.

The portrait before us is the result of the work of our fellow townsman, Mr. Charles E. Moss, R.C.A., whom we are pleased to see with us this evening.* It is a faithful reproduction of that excellent likeness of Mr. Billings, now hanging in the Lecture Hall of the Natural History Society of Montreal by W. Raphael, Esq., painted in 1876, from a photograph by Notman in 1861.

It is the intention of the Committee to have a tablet prepared for the portrait with the following inscription :—

ELKANAH BILLINGS, Esq., F.G.S.,

Palæontologist from 1856 to 1876.

Presented to the Geol. Survey of Canada by a Committee of the
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Dec. 11th, 1900,
on behalf of his friends and admirers.

I will now formally present this memento of Mr. Billings to the Dominion Government as represented here this evening by Dr. Geo. M. Dawson, the Director and Deputy Minister of the Geological Survey Department.

The following is a synopsis of Dr. Dawson's apt remarks when accepting the portrait :

My duty this evening is an easy and a very pleasing one, consisting as it does in receiving, on the part of the Geological Survey Department, this excellent portrait of Elkanah Billings, who for many years was Palæontologist to the Survey. I can promise it a place of honour near the collections to which his labours were devoted, and I trust a still more conspicuous position may be found for it in the new and spacious Museum in which we hope, before long, to see these collections adequately housed.

In thus honouring Billings's memory the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, have, I feel, equally done themselves honour. It is particularly appropriate that a Committee of members of this organization has been instrumental in arranging for the production

* The excellent frontispiece to this number is reproduced from the portrait by the Grip Printing & Publishing Co., Toronto. J. F., A'g Ed.