

OBITUARY NOTICE
OF
THOMAS STERRY HUNT.

BY JAMES DOUGLAS.

(Read before the American Philosophical Society, April 1, 1895.)

Among the most versatile men of science, of the present generation, must be classed Thomas Sterry Hunt.

He was prominent as a chemist nearly half a century ago, not only in the field of original investigation, but as one of the first interpreters of the new chemistry then being taught by Gerhardt, and he not only grew with the growth of his favorite science up to the date of his death, but helped to enlarge its scope, to expand its relations, and place it on a new and more consistent basis.

As a geologist his work was almost confined to the crystalline and paleozoic rocks, not only because his practice in the field under Sir William Logan, in the Canadian Geological Survey, was among the older rocks, but because the investigation of their origin, decay and metamorphosis in its fullest sense, fell within the scope of his studies as a chemist, and gave wider range to his faculties as a theorist. For Hunt, besides being an exact student of nature, was a poet, and, being a theorist, was possessed of vivid imagination. He brought his chemical knowledge to bear on the geological problems which presented themselves to him in most perplexing profusion, while trying to conceive of the genesis of the crystalline rocks. And he was of necessity led on from the conception of the primal conditions of our own globe to speculations on the constitution of the universal atmosphere and the building of worlds in interstellar space.

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