the English Channel half a wreck. As she passed in leisurely succession the cliffs of Cornwall and Devonshire, the rocks of Portland, the green fields of the Isle of Wight, the banks of Beachy Head and the chalk cliffs of Dover, the young student was enamoured of their beauty, and filled with curiosity as to "what fossils they might contain." Finally, a landing was effected in the busy town of Newcastle, and this nimble minded youth passed the only evening there in "a debating club for young men." The journey to Edinburgh was undertaken in a stage-coach, when it appeared that the inside of the conveyance was wholly occupied by the luxurious young colonial. This was another lesson in economy.

The single year which was spent in Edinburgh was not precisely one of idleness. The diligent student was well equipped for his work by the researches which he had undertaken in Pictou into the Natural Sciences — chemistry, physics and especially geology. He attended lectures; he spent much time in the museum; he read in the library; he made notes, abstracts and drawings from books which had hitherto been inaccessible; he undertook frequent excursions in the neighbourhood of the city for "exercise and practice in observation." Also, he made the discovery, surprising to him, "how little even some of the more eminent geologists seemed to know, and how uncertain was their diagnosis in the field." A similar observation has been made since this time by students who were less astute. Whilst in Edinburgh, he made the acquaintance of Jameson, Forbes, Balfour and Alexander Rose, and of Mr. Sanderson, the lapidary, who taught him "the art of preparing transparent slices for the microscope." There are men yet living who have witnessed Sir William engaged upon that fascinating employment in the basement of the Peter Redpath Museum.

We shall first turn to that side of Sir William Dawson's life which was scientific, and we shall be obliged to commence at an early period in his long career. His home had much in it to foster a study of nature, and both of his parents encouraged him in the pursuit. A wild garden filled with trees and shrubs; rough pastures; woods and swamps, within easy distance; a narrow harbour open to the sea-tides, and fed from the landward side by numerous rivers — these were suitable hunting grounds for a young naturalist, and they yielded a rich store of plants, fossils, insects and birds.

At an early age he was engaged in the familiar occupation of fashioning a slate pencil from a flake of shale, and he was surprised to find upon the stone a "delicate tracing in black of a leaf like that of a fern." This was his earliest discovery in geology, and he prosecuted his researches diligently, until at length he had "a little collection