

SIR WILLIAM E. LOGAN AND THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

OF CANADA.

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The life of the late Sir William Logan and the history of the Geological Survey of Canada are so intimately connected with one another that a complete account of the one would necessarily comprise that of the other. It is not the intention however, in the present paper to attempt even a brief history of the life of Logan, but rather to give a selection of incidents and anecdotes illustrative of the man from all points of view. These are personal reminiscences, as the writer had the honour of being intimately associated with Sir William from the beginning of 1857, now 50 years ago, till he left this country, or during a period of 17 or 18 years, and of seeing him under a great diversity of circumstances. A correct narrative of a sufficient variety of incidents bearing on all points in a man's life gives one a truer idea of the man himself than the general assertions of a biographer, who pictures his subject only as he himself wishes, or as he thinks he should be described. In referring here to the history of the Geological Survey it is sufficient to say that its origin was due principally to the action of the Natural History Society of Montreal in presenting a petition to the first Parliament of the united provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. This petition, which, by the way, it is understood originated in a suggestion from the late Rev. Dr. Matheson of Montreal, was seconded by a similar one from the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec. The first grant for the Survey was only £1,500 sterling, but after that the amount for some ten years was £2,000 sterling annually. It was not, however, until toward the close of Logan's administration that the amount exceeded \$20,000 a year, and the average annual grant during his time may be said to have been only about \$15,000. This should be remembered in estimating what he accomplished. Mr. Logan was appointed Provincial Geologist in 1842 and began the Survey in the spring of 1843.