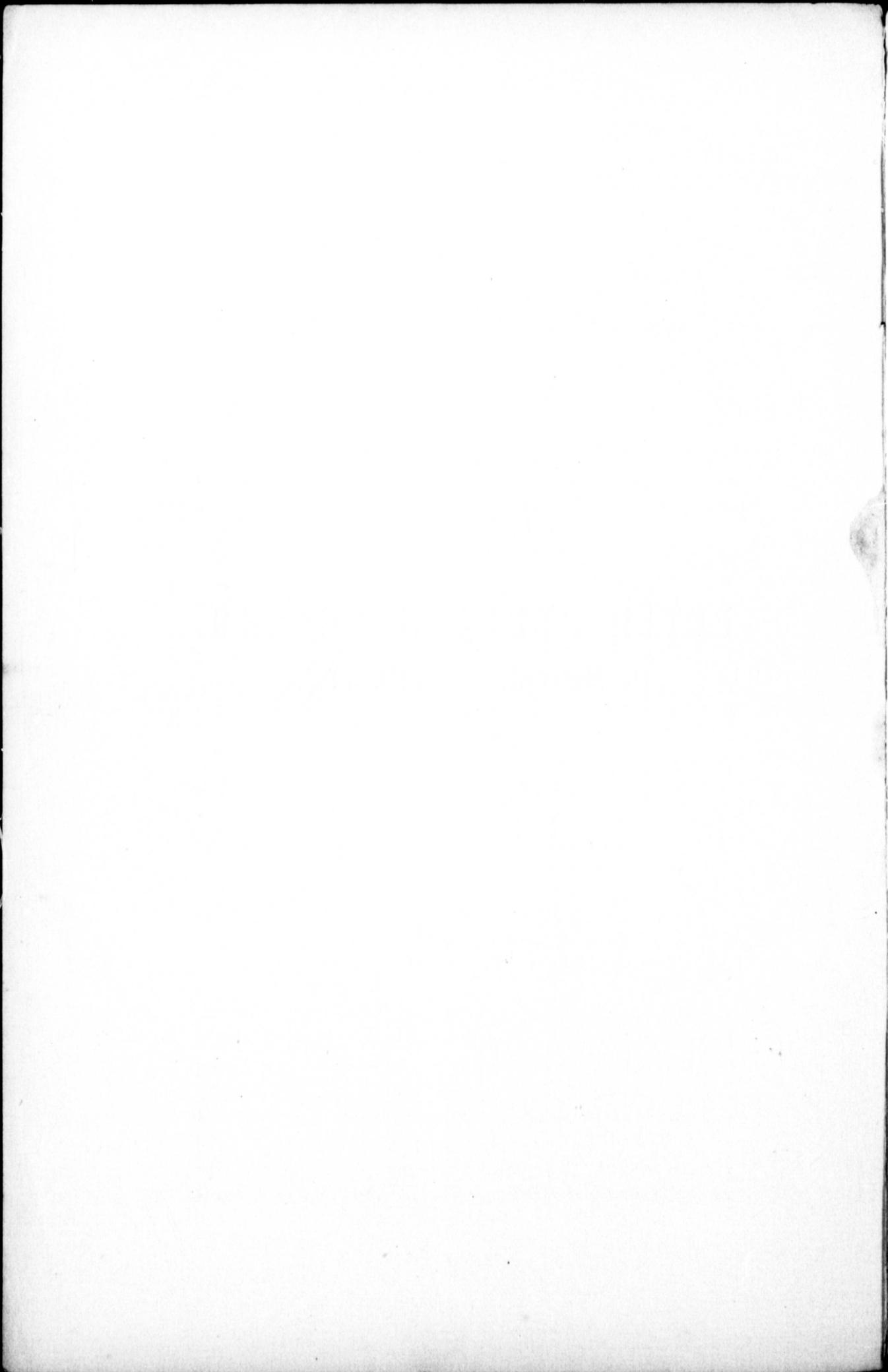


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REPORT
ON THE
PETER REDPATH MUSEUM
OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

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No. 1.
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APRIL, 1882.



REPORT ON THE PETER REDPATH MUSEUM
OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

*Prepared for the first meeting of the Museum Committee,
March 11th, 1882.*

[In the terms of the gift of the Peter Redpath Museum to the University, it is provided that the immediate management of the Museum shall be entrusted to a "Standing Committee of the Corporation, to be called the Museum Committee, to consist of the Principal as Chairman, and three other members of the Corporation, with whom shall be associated the Logan Professor of Geology and the Professors of Mineralogy, Zoology and Botany, and of other departments of Natural History in the Faculties of Arts or Applied Science of McGill College, should there be such Professors. The Committee shall have power to appoint any of its members Honorary Curator or Curators of the Collections or of any part thereof, and to arrange the times at which different Professors and their classes may teach or study in the Museum."

A Museum Committee was accordingly appointed by the Corporation of the University, at its meeting in January, 1882, and consists of the following members: The Principal (*ex officio*), Peter Redpath, Esq., Hon. Mr. Justice McKay, Dr. G. W. Campbell, Dr. B. J. Harrington (*ex officio*). The following report was presented by the Principal to the first meeting, with the object of placing on record the steps taken by him up to that time in his capacity of Curator of the Museum, under the regulations of the University.]

The noble Museum, erected for the University by the munificence of Mr. Redpath, has now so far advanced toward completion, that it will probably be ready for the reception of specimens in May next, and it is extremely desirable that the collections to be contained in it shall be in as perfect a condition as possible at the time of the formal opening, which is intended to take place on the 24th of August, on occasion of the meeting of the American Association in Montreal. In view of these dates, it

has been necessary to devote special time and attention for some months past to the arrangement and preparation of the specimens in the present Museum, and in the collections recently added to it by donation or purchase. The present report is intended to record the steps which have been taken or are in progress toward this end.

ARRANGEMENT, LABELLING, ETC.

In June, 1881, Mr. Thomas Curry was engaged to mount, label and otherwise prepare specimens, and has been steadily engaged in this work since that time. The expense of mounting materials has been charged to the Museum fund. Mr. Curry's salary has been paid by the liberality of a lady of this city, who has also placed at the credit of the Museum a sum sufficient to secure his valuable services for some time longer.

Mr. P. Kuetzing has been employed, for a part of his time, to remount and renovate the specimens of vertebrate animals and to prepare some new specimens which have been purchased. He has up to this time been occupied more especially with the collection presented by the heirs of the late Dr. McCulloch. It is hoped that by the end of May he will have gone over the whole of the material of this kind possessed by the University and will have brought it up to a creditable condition.

Dr. Harrington and myself have been giving as much attention as possible to the proper naming of the minerals, rocks and fossils, and to their orderly and systematic arrangement, preparatory to removal to the cases of the new building.

DONATIONS AND EXCHANGES.

Under this head reference will be made to the principal contributions recently made to the collections, and more especially to those particularly intended for the Peter Redpath Museum.

Principal Dawson's collections in the Geology and Natural History of Canada are in process of being arranged and mounted, along with the other specimens. The conditions of this donation, approved by the Board of Governors, are, that the specimens, while not kept separate from the general arrangement, will be labelled with the name of the donor, and that he and Dr. G. M. Dawson shall have access to them for purposes of study, and with reference to their safe keeping. The total number of speci-

mens in the collection cannot as yet be definitely stated, but is estimated at from six thousand to ten thousand specimens, besides much material available for exchanges. It may be stated here that for the past twenty years the duplicates of this collection, and more especially of the new species described by Dr. Dawson, have been used in exchanges for the benefit of the Museum, and that a large part of the specimens now in the cases and drawers have been obtained in this way.

The following are among the more important of the other donations recently received :

From the Director of the Geological Survey, about 500 specimens of fossils and minerals, and twenty-three casts of large and unique fossils.

From Dr. T. Sterry Hunt a collection of thirty-two species of Canadian fishes, prepared by Mr. W. Couper, of Montreal.

From the heirs of the late Dr. McCulloch, the whole of his valuable collections of birds and mammals, including 170 species—a collection having an historical value, in connection with the labours of Dr. McCulloch and the revision of the nomenclature of the specimens by the late Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte.

From George Barnston, Esq., a valuable collection of fossil fishes from the Devonian of Scotland.

From Lieutenant Colonel Grant, of Hamilton, Ontario, a large number of fossils from the Niagara formation, some of them of great rarity and interest.

From the American Census Commissioners, a valuable collection of American woods.

From the New York Museum of Natural History, through Professor Whitfield, a collection of 700 specimens of fossils, named by Professor James Hall. In exchange for this a complete collection of the Devonian plants of Canada, from the collections of the Principal and of Professor Hartt, has been given to the New York Museum.

From Peter Redpath, Esq., the skull of a Greenland whale, with the baleen perfectly preserved.

From Dr. G. M. Dawson, specimens of mammals from the N. W. Territories.

From Dr. Spencer, of Kings' College, Windsor, specimens of fossils from the Niagara and Corniferous formations.

In addition to these, valuable contributions have been received from the Smithsonian Institution, Prof. Marsh of Yale College,

Charles Gibb, Esq., of Abbottsford, Professor Hilgard of Washington, Captain J. A. Vibert, E. De Cew, Esq., of Cayuga, Mr. Damon of Weymouth, Mr. Chatfeld of Syracuse, Mr. F. Starr of Auburn, A. J. Hill, Esq., C.E., Charles Robb, Esq., J. G. Miller, Esq., Mr. H. M. Ami, J. F. Torrance, Esq., B.A., T. Bland, Esq., of New York, J. F. Whiteaves, Esq., Professor Cope of Philadelphia, W. S. Davidson, Esq., of Edinburgh, and others. Details of these gifts have from time to time appeared in the public prints and in the College Calendar.

PURCHASES AND EXPENDITURES.

In order to complete the collections in a manner worthy of the new building, and to make up for the loss sustained by the removal of the collections of the Geological Survey from Montreal, it has been necessary to make some purchases and to engage the services of collectors to supply certain deficiencies.

The collection of Devonian plants in the possession of the late Professor Hartt of Cornell University, at the time of his death, was purchased for \$250. It has afforded a few new species which have been described, several good museum specimens and materials for exchanges.

Casts of fossils, models of animals and specimens, have been purchased from the collections of Messrs. Ward and Howell of Rochester, for \$451.

A few valuable and rare birds, not in our other collections, have been purchased of Mr. Passmore of this city for \$55.

The sum of \$25 was expended in procuring a collection of the interesting silicified fossils of Paquette's Rapids, on the Ottawa.

A collection of fossil fishes from the Cretaceous of Mt. Lebanon, has been purchased for \$34.

From E. De Cew, Esq., of Cayuga, an important collection of Corniferous corals, including some specimens of unusual size and perfection, was purchased for \$50. Mr. De Cew also presented some other fossils of interest from his own collections.

The valuable services of James Richardson, Esq., late of the Geological Survey of the Dominion, were secured during the past summer, with the view of procuring specimens of some of the more rare and characteristic fossils of the Cambrian and Lower Silurian rocks. Mr. Richardson has engaged in this work without remuneration, and he was enabled to obtain a large number of valuable specimens at a very moderate expense.

One of Professor Ward's excellent copies of the great skeleton of the *Megatherium* in the British Museum, and a number of other large casts have been contracted for and are to be delivered in the course of next month. The net cost of these casts is \$568, and with the freight and fitting up it will amount to about \$800.

A number of smaller collections and single specimens have been purchased from time to time as opportunity offered. The expense of some of the above purchases has been borne by the Museum fund. The sums paid for the others have been advanced by the Principal.

I have much pleasure in adding that several of the larger and more important specimens and collections referred to under this head are intended to form a memorial in the Museum to the late Sir W. E. Logan, and when the mounting of them has been completed will be paid for by a donation from his heirs.

Certain expenditures have been required on the grounds in the vicinity of the Museum. A portion of these have been defrayed by the University; but the greater part by private contributions, among which may be mentioned the donation of new and rare shrubs and trees by Charles Gibb, Esq. The arrangement of the grounds will be continued in the spring, but without any considerable expenditure.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

The work of arranging, re-labelling and mounting specimens is so far advanced that we shall be able to occupy the Museum so soon as its cases can be fitted up.

The cases have been contracted for by Mr. Roberts, and will, it is believed, be as nearly as possible perfect in their arrangements for the protection and display of the specimens. Mr. Redpath has added to his other liberal gifts the provision of these cases at an expense of \$10,000.

The plan of the arrangement of the collections has been fully decided beforehand, with reference to the dimensions of the hall and the character and position of the cases. It is hoped that it will provide in the most effectual manner for the display of the specimens, along with the greatest possible facilities for their scientific study. The Museum will thus afford advantages for the study of Geology and Natural History not previously enjoyed in this country.

Provision has been made on the ground floor for a large and well-arranged lecture theatre and two class-rooms, which will also afford space for reference collections for the use of lecturers and students, and for the herbarium. In the basement there is a large laboratory for the preparation of specimens, and ample space for the storage of material.

It is proper to add that while Mr. Redpath has kindly undertaken to bear the current expenses of the New Museum for a few years, no special provision exists for the work of teaching within its walls, except the very inadequate amount afforded by the endowment of the Logan chair of Geology. Endowments are urgently required for Mineralogy, Botany and Geology, and it is hoped that the example of Mr. Redpath may stimulate other benefactors to supply these deficiencies. Aids of this kind would also relieve the general funds of the University.

It should further be borne in mind that the erection and endowment of the Peter Redpath Museum affords an illustration of what may be done by other benefactors for the departments of Physical and Chemical Science, and for our Faculty of Applied Science. Each of these requires for its full development buildings and endowments. In connection with this I have pleasure in stating that A. C. Hutchison, Esq., one of the architects of the Peter Redpath Museum, proposes to prepare a plan and elevation showing how the buildings required in the future for the above and other University purposes may be erected in due relation to the present buildings, and in harmony with the plan of the new Museum.

It is proposed that Reports on the Museum shall be printed from time to time, recording its progress; and that in future these shall include lists and short descriptions of new species, and statements of new scientific facts which may be discovered. Some unpublished material already exists in the collections, and has been laid aside for description, and it is hoped that future reports may shew that the museum, in addition to its educational work, will be a means of advancing the knowledge of Canadian geology and natural history.

(Signed,) J. W. DAWSON, I.L.D.,
Principal and Prof. Nat. Hist.