

McGILL UNIVER-  
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MCGILL COLLEGE, Montreal, May 22, 1868.

*To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh:*

Gentlemen,

In offering myself as a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh, I beg leave to make the following statements with reference to the grounds on which I venture to aspire to an office so important and honourable.

My early academic training was received in the College of Pictou, Nova Scotia, under the Principalship of the Rev. Dr. McCulloch, a graduate of Glasgow. After completing a course of four years in that institution, and spending some time in the study of the Natural History of my native Province, I matriculated in Edinburgh, in the Session of 1840-1, and studied during the winter, especially under the late Prof. Jameson. I then returned to Nova Scotia, and renewed my Geological researches, and had the pleasure of accompanying Sir Charles Lyell in his tour in Nova Scotia, in 1842. Returning to Edinburgh in the autumn of 1846, I again entered the University, devoting my time principally to the study of Practical Chemistry. At this time I contributed two papers to the Royal Society of Edinburgh and one to the Wernerian Society. It was not my purpose to enter for a Degree in Arts; but at a subsequent time, and when I had acquired some reputation as a Geologist, the Senatus conferred on me the Honorary degree of Master of Arts.

In 1850, I was appointed Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia, which office I held for three years, and performed the duty of organizing the schools of that colony, under an amended Educational Law. On resigning the office of Superintendent, I was made one of the Commissioners for establishing the Normal School. I afterwards served on the commission appointed by the late Sir Edmund Head to regulate the affairs of the University of New Brunswick, and in 1855 was offered the office which I now hold, viz: that of Principal and Professor of Natural History in the McGill College and University, the oldest and in many respects the most considerable University in Canada. More recently the office of Vice-Chancellor has been added.

During my connection with McGill University, I have had, annually, under my direct tuition, from 60 to 100 students of Arts and Medicine, in the subjects of Geology and Natural History; and some of these have taken honour courses in Geology, qualifying them to enter on field work in the Geological Survey, or to become teachers of the subject. As Principal, I have had the oversight of an institution having twenty-four Professors, besides other teachers, 300 students in Arts, Medicine and Law, and 600 pupils in lower schools, as well as the management of the relations of Affiliated Colleges with the University. A part of my duty as Principal has consisted in the organization and management of the Provincial Protestant Normal School of the Province of Quebec, which has now been in successful operation for ten years.

During my incumbency of the office of Principal, this University has been most prosperous. Scientific studies have been largely introduced into its course, which in this and other respects may challenge comparison with most of the older Universities. No unpleasant controversy has arisen in connection with the changes introduced, and the University has grown in public estimation and support. In my class lectures, though burdened with an excessive amount of work, I have been able to secure the attention of my students and in many cases to kindle their enthusiasm.

I hold the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from this University, and am a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, of the Geological Society of London, and of the Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston; a Foreign Corresponding Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society; a Member of the American Philosophical Society; an Honorary Member of the Natural History Society of Boston, and a Corresponding

Member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, and of several other societies. I have also been several times elected President of the Natural History Society of Montreal, and now hold that position.

Among my contributions to the Literature of Natural Science, may be mentioned twenty-five papers published in the Proceedings of the Geological Society of London; a work entitled "Acadian Geology," on the Geology of the Eastern Provinces of British North America, a second and enlarged edition of which, extending to nearly 700 pages, is now in the press of Messrs. Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh; and will shortly be published in London, by Messrs. Macmillan, a work entitled "Archaia, or studies of the Cosmogony and Natural History of the Hebrew Scriptures;" besides several Educational and Scientific works of a more local nature, and numerous contributions to the Canadian Naturalist and other periodicals. All of these have been favourably received by the public.

I am, at present, 47 years of age. I am a member of the Canada Presbyterian Church, (Union of Free and U. P. Churches). My position in Canada is one of much influence and consideration, and places me in official and social relations with the most eminent and agreeable persons, and I enjoy an adequate salary. My reasons for desiring the office now vacant, are: (1.) The prospect of a wider field of educational and scientific usefulness, in connection with the enjoyment of a larger amount of congenial scientific society. (2.) The better opportunities which I would possess for working out to completion the original investigations which I have commenced here; along with greater facilities for publication, and for personally bringing the results of my labours under the notice of the scientific world.

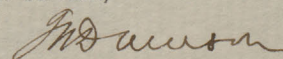
If elected, it will be my earnest effort to promote the usefulness and prosperity of the University in all its departments; but more especially to stimulate its progress in the direction of Scientific studies. I shall be prepared at any time, and without any stipulation as to emolument, to enter upon the duties of a chair of Geology and Mineralogy, (should such chair be created in addition to the present chair of Natural History); and, besides ordinary lectures, to carry on the studies of honour students in practical and special classes. But while thus basing my claims in great part on my qualifications as a teacher of Geology and the allied sciences, and on the importance of the science-teaching which I personally represent, I fully appreciate the value of Classical and Mathematical Scholarship, and of the other branches of learning cultivated in the University, and the necessity of maintaining these, as well as the importance of cherishing the eminent professional schools for which Edinburgh has so long been celebrated; and I trust that my experience in this country, under circumstances in which much more varied duties and responsibilities devolve on a Principal than is usually the case in Great Britain, will contribute to my fitness for the work which may be required of me in a University so extensive in the scope of its operations as that of Edinburgh.

In evidence of my personal character and standing in Canada, I have attached to this application, copies of testimonials from several persons of eminent position in this country. I believe I might add to the number of these almost indefinitely: but have contented myself with a few from those whose judgment should have the greatest weight.

On the subject of my standing as a Geologist, I may refer to Sir Charles Lyell, Bart., F.R.S.; Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., F.R.S.; Prof. Ramsay, F.R.S.; Prof. Phillips, F.R.S., of Oxford; Sir W. E. Logan, F.R.S., Director of the Geological Survey of Canada, as personal friends and competent judges. Several of these gentlemen inform me that they have addressed to the Curators, or some of them, letters in my behalf, but which I cannot attach to this application, not having copies of them. I may also refer to the notices of my labours contained in the works of the two first-mentioned geologists, and in those of Prof. Dana, of Yale College. In Edinburgh I am personally well known to Prof. Balfour and to Prof. Kelland, as well as to many other gentlemen connected with Science and Education; and may refer to D. Davidson, Esq., of the Bank of Scotland, formerly one of the Governors of this University, as being well acquainted with my work and character in Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,



*Copy of a Testimonial from the Honourable Charles D. Day, LL.D., Chancellor of McGill University.*

As Chancellor of the University of McGill College and President of the Board of Governors, I have much pleasure in expressing my sentiments, with respect to Dr. Dawson's connection with it, as Vice-Chancellor, Principal and Professor. Dr. Dawson was appointed Principal in 1855, upon the recommendation of the late Sir Edmund Head, before the organization of the University was completed under the new charter. His services in aid of that work were very valuable, and the earnestness, tact and administrative ability applied by him in the management of the Institution since, under great difficulties, cannot be acknowledged in too favourable terms. His administration has been eminently successful, and, with his powers as lecturer and his judicious and happy mode of conveying instruction, has been a chief means of bringing the University into its present condition of prosperity and usefulness. In the foregoing opinion, I am confident that the Governors, and indeed all who are connected with the University, fully concur.

Of Dr. Dawson's attainments and reputation as a man of Science, I need say nothing: his talents and labours have not been confined exclusively to the duties of his situation, but have been freely bestowed for the benefit of society. He enjoys the respect to which his high qualities of head and heart entitle him, and exercises a very strong and wide-spread influence in the country. His departure will be universally regarded as a great loss, not only to the University, but to the whole community in which he lives, and he will carry with him the good wishes of all who know him, for his continued success and happiness.

(Signed,) CHARLES D. DAY,  
*Chancellor, and President of the Board of Governors,  
McGill University.*

Montreal, May 6th, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Right Honourable Viscount Monck, &c., &c., Governor General of Canada.*

I have very great pleasure in expressing the high opinion I have formed of the personal character and acquirements of Dr. Dawson.

As official visitor of the University of McGill College, I have had some opportunity of becoming aware of the beneficial effect, which the manner in which he performed the duties of Principal has had upon the interests of the Institution ; and I may add, that I have never heard any person connected with the University, who did not speak in high terms of Dr. Dawson.

(Signed,) MONCK.

*Ottawa, May 15th, 1868.*

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Honourable P. J. O. Chauveau, LL.D., Secretary of the Province of Quebec, and  
Minister of Public Instruction.*

I have great pleasure in testifying to the great ability displayed and the unparalleled success obtained by Dr. Dawson, as Principal of the McGill University and Normal School.

Through the incessant efforts of Dr. Dawson, the McGill University has acquired, in a few years, a degree of efficiency and a position in the country which the most sanguine of its friends could hardly have anticipated. It has always been to me a matter of surprise, that Dr. Dawson could have achieved so much as Principal of the University, while so actively engaged in scientific researches, and while giving so much attention to every matter connected with the general progress of education, science and literature; and even taking into account his very remarkable talents and natural gifts, the amount of labour which must have been performed by him since I have known him, and have watched his career in this country, is wonderful.

(Signed,) PIERRE J. O. CHAUVEAU,

*Secretary of the Province of Quebec and Minister of Public Instruction,  
late Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.*

Ottawa, 17th May, 1868.

The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Rev. John Jenkins, D.D., Minister of St. Paul's, (Church of Scotland,) Montreal.*

Mr. Principal Dawson, who is a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh, has been long known to me in both public and private life, and I readily bear my testimony to the energy and efficiency of the one and the purity of the other. By his decided Christian character, and his remarkable attainments in science, Dr. Dawson has been instrumental in raising the Institution over which he now presides, to a high point of influence and usefulness in the community.

In these days of scientific progress and aim, it must be of great moment that the Head of a University such as that of Edinburgh, be a man of the highest taste and acquirement in this branch of learning. It is superfluous for me to state that Dr. Dawson's qualifications as a Naturalist, in the wide sense of this title, are unsurpassed. At a time when the Scriptures and teachers of Christianity are assailed on every hand, most of all from high literary quarters, it must be deemed vital to the interests of a Christian University, that he who is called to preside over it be a devout believer in the Gospel; such a man, pre-eminently, is Dr. Dawson. In a day when the simplicity of the Protestant doctrine and ritual is largely sought to be supplanted by a verisimilitude of the Romish dogma and forms of worship, a Scottish University, as it seems to me, other things being equal, should secure for its Principal one whose ecclesiastical bias tends to the Presbyterian system, which, more than aught else in her history, has made Scotland pre-eminent amongst the Protestant countries of Christendom. Dr. Dawson is a loyal, conscientious Presbyterian.

I will only add that Principal Dawson is distinguished by administrative ability of a very high order.

(Signed) JOHN JENKINS, D.D.  
*Minister of St Paul's, (Ch. of Scotland.)*

Montreal, 22d May, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Venerable Archdeacon Leach, M.A., LL. D., Dean of the Faculty of Arts of McGill College.*

The fact of my having been associated with Dr. Dawson for a number of years in University work, will perhaps excuse my venturing to convey to those interested in the selection of a Principal for the University of Edinburgh, the estimation in which that gentleman's services are held here in Montreal, by those who have had the best opportunities of observing them.

The Faculty of Arts in the University of McGill College may be said to have been *created* by Dr. Dawson. I ascribe it to his personal influence in this community that the necessary funds were secured for the requisite endowments and the completion of the College buildings. I desire to remark emphatically the singular ability that he has evinced for University organization. He has completed a system that works better, and better fulfils the object of a University, than any other I have any knowledge of. Through all his difficult course of action he has secured the respect of persons of all religious denominations, and the friendly regard of all, I believe, with whom he has been connected. With the other Professors of the University he has worked with perfect harmony. I am not acquainted with the *present* state of the University of Edinburgh; I beg leave, however, to say that if its internal arrangements are susceptible of any improvement, Dr. Dawson's thorough knowledge of University work in all its forms, his experience and assiduity, his politeness and the confidence in his integrity and disinterestedness that he invariably inspires, point him out, as the one above all others that I know or expect to know, qualified to carry into effect improvements likely to be permanently beneficial and to promote the efficiency of the University.

WILLIAM T. LEACH,

*Archdeacon of Montreal, and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, McGill College.*

Montreal, May 22d, 1868.

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*Copy of a Testimonial from G. W. Campbell, M.A., M.D., Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, McGill College.*

My dear Sir,

In the name and on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, I have great pleasure to testify to the pleasant and friendly character of your relation with the Faculty in your capacity as Principal of the University. Your advice has always been given in the most delicate and agreeable manner, and your very able labors in the chair of Botany and Zoology have been one of the chief means of raising the Faculty of Medicine to its present prosperous condition. While wishing you on your own account a more important position and a more extensive sphere of usefulness, I have only to express the regret of my colleagues and myself that there should be a prospect of our University losing a Head who has done so much to elevate its educational character and extend its usefulness.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

GEO. W. CAMPBELL, A.M., M.D.

*L. R. C. S. Ed. and Dean of Faculty of Medicine.*

(The originals of the above have been sent to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Most Revd. the Metropolitan of Canada.*

My dear Dr. Dawson,

Great as certainly will be the loss to Canada and the various institutions in the working of which you have, whilst resident in this city, taken so active an interest, I cannot hesitate for an instant in joining with your other friends in furnishing you with the testimonial to be presented by you as a Candidate for the office of Principal of the University of Edinburgh.

In common with all your fellow-citizens, I can certify to the high character you have maintained, and the estimation in which you are held. But it has been more especially in connection with the "Natural History Society of Montreal" that I have learned to value your talents, your excellent habits of business, and conciliatory spirit. We have been fellow-laborers in that Society now for many years—and if it has emerged from a state of obscurity and confusion—and become a valuable institution among us in Canada, and acquired a recognised position amongst scientific men both on this Continent and in Europe, I consider it to have been mainly owing to the prominent and very able part you have taken in its transactions. Should you be successful in obtaining the high office you are seeking, I trust you will be as successful in your new and more important sphere of action as you have been amongst us, and that your services will be as duly appreciated as they have been here.

I remain,

My dear Dr. Dawson,

Yours very faithfully,

(Signed)

F. MONTREAL.

*Metropolitan of Canada.*

Montreal, May 23d, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Edinburgh.)



*Copy of a Letter from Rev. Dr. Cook, Minister of St. Andrew's (Church of Scotland), Quebec, and Principal of Morrin College. Addressed to the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.*

Quebec, 25th May, 1868.

My Lord Provost,

I have been informed by Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill University, Montreal, that he is a candidate for the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh.

As the head of a Collegiate Institution, recently established in this city by private munificence, and which is affiliated to McGill University, I have necessarily had frequent intercourse with Dr. Dawson, and ample opportunity to judge both of his general character and his special fitness for discharging the duties of the important office which he now holds ; and I cannot express too strongly the impression I have derived from all I have seen of him, of his excellent sense, his sound judgment, his amiable temper his capacity for the management of business, his zeal in the cause of education in all its branches, and among all classes, and the earnest and enlightened interest which he takes in every work either of common or Christian benevolence. Of his great attainments in Natural Science I have not the presumption to think that my opinion would be of any value. His eminence as a man of science is I believe well known and highly appreciated in Europe and America. It is more in my way to state that his pursuit of science has not diminished his reverence for revelation, and that if called to the Principal's Chair in the University of Edinburgh, he will, like his illustrious predecessor, unite the characters of a Christian and a man of science.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord Provost,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN COOK, D.D.

*Minister of St. Andrew's Church, and Principal of Morrin College.*

To the Right Hon. W. Chambers, Lord Provost of Edinburgh.

*Copy of a Testimonial from the Pastors of Erskine Church.*

I have had the happiness to be acquainted with Dr. Dawson, ever since he came to this city in 1855, to fill the office of Principal of the University of McGill College, and beg to bear testimony to the high estimation in which he is held here, both as a scholar and as a christian.

He has, during all that time, been a member of the congregation of Erskine Church, (of the Canada Presbyterian Church) of which I am Pastor; and has, in various ways, rendered important service to the cause of christian truth and the interests of general education.

He has been and still continues, at this date, Superintendent of our Sabbath School; and has conducted Young Men's Bible classes, both in the above congregation and in the city; by which he has contributed much to the diffusion of sound Scriptural knowledge among the young. He has also rendered important service in connection with the Montreal Auxiliary Bible Society, the Religious Tract and other Religious and Charitable Institutions in the city.

In these times in which the knowledge of science is so often found associated with scepticism in religion, it is gratifying to find, in Dr. Dawson, an example of one who can possess an extensive knowledge of the works of God, and maintain along with it a profound veneration for the authority of the Bible.

By the consistency of his conduct, the extent of his learning and the weight of his character, he has rendered great service to the cause of Protestant Christianity in this city and Province, and has earned for himself the respect of all who love "our common Lord," of every denomination. If removed from us in the providence of God, all classes will mourn his departure, but will follow him with their kindest wishes for his happiness.

Given at Montreal, this 22nd day of May, 1868.

(Signed,) WILLIAM TAYLOR, D.D.

*Senior Pastor Erskine Church.*

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I have much pleasure in adding my testimony to that of Dr. Taylor in every particular he has mentioned, and would only add, that I have been very specially impressed with the earnest and affectionate interest Dr. Dawson has taken, not only in the intellectual and moral, but also the spiritual welfare and progress of *young men*.

J. M. GIBSON, M.A.,

*Junior Pastor of Erskine Church.*

Montreal, May 22nd, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copy of a Testimonial from DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., Professor of History and English Literature in University College, Toronto.*

To the Curators of the University of Edinburgh.

Gentlemen,

I learn that Dr. Dawson, Principal of McGill College, Montreal, is proposed as a Candidate for the vacant Principalship of the University of Edinburgh. I have much pleasure in complying with the request for a testimonial on his behalf.

In reference to his scientific attainments his published works are sufficient evidence. But I may be permitted to bear testimony to his pleasing and attractive gifts as a lecturer, and his success as a teacher of science. I can also speak of him, from personal intercourse, as a man of earnest Christian principle, whose moral influence on the Students under his care has been of the most beneficial character.

I had the honour of being invited to fill the office of Principal of McGill College prior to its acceptance by Dr. Dawson, and had, therefore, very special opportunities of informing myself as to the condition of the College when he entered on his office. It was then in a very depressed condition, consequent on long mismanagement, under inefficient control. Since Dr. D. assumed the duties of Principal, its progress has been great; the highest confidence is reposed in his integrity and administrative judgment; and the esteem in which he is held by all who have to acknowledge his authority, or co-operate with him in the work of education, confirms my belief formed from personal intercourse, that he possesses the happy combination of courtesy and firmness peculiarly needed for such an office. I feel assured that his removal from Montreal would be a source of regret to all who feel an interest in the progress of Education in Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL WILSON.

*Prof. of Hist. and Eng. Lit., Univ. Coll., Toronto.*

Univ. Coll., Toronto, 26th May, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to Adam Black, Esq., Edinburgh.)

*Copy of an Address from the Professors of McGill College and University, Montreal.*

To J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S. &c. *Principal of McGill College, Vice-Chancellor of McGill University.*

Sir,

We, the undersigned Professors of the University of Montreal, (McGill College,) have learned with regret that, as you have been proposed for the office of Principal in the University of Edinburgh, there is a possibility of your removal from us. We are fully sensible how great will be our loss if this should happen; but we should make a bad return for the great and eminent services you have rendered this University if, through the desire to retain you which we feel, we should even passively resist your promotion to the head of one of the time-honoured Universities of the mother country, by withholding our testimony to the remarkable qualifications which experience has shown you to possess for such an office.

Of your scientific reputation it is unnecessary for us to speak. To administrative ability of the highest order must be attributed the present state of this University, and the high place it holds in the public esteem of Canada. The creation, practically, of the Faculty of Arts, the erection of a large part of the College Buildings, the establishment of new Professorships, of Museums, of a Laboratory for practical Chemistry, of a Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory, the collection of Philosophical Apparatus, these more especially attest your indefatigable activity and zeal for the promotion of its interests. The liberality with which the citizens of Montreal have contributed to these objects, is, we consider, due in no small degree to their appreciation of your exertions, and to the great social influence which you have acquired.

Of no less value than the above acquisitions has been the harmonious action of the component parts of the University which has marked your internal administration of its affairs—action so difficult to maintain amid the conflicting opinions on important points, unavoidable in a young institution. It has not a little contributed to this harmony that, while zealously attending to the duties of your own Professorial Chair, you have at the same time earnestly and ably promoted and advocated the interests of all other departments of learning.

Of your services to Education in general, and of your public position outside of the University, others can testify; we desire here solely to express our sense of those services which we have had the best opportunities of appreciating, and our esteem as Professors for you as Principal.

(Signed by)

VEN. ARCHDEACON LEACH, D. C. L., LL. D.—Vice Principal, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor of Logic and Moral Philosophy, and Molson Professor of English Literature.	FREDERICK W. TORRANCE, M.A., B.C.L.—Professor of Roman Law.
HENRY ASPINWALL HOWE, M. A.—Emeritus Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.	P. R. LAFRENAYE, B.C.L.—Professor of Civil Procedure and Jurisprudence.
HON. J. J. ABBOTT, D.C.L.—Dean of the Faculty of Law and Professor of Commercial Law.	R. G. LAFLAMME, B.C.L.—Professor of Civil Law.
GEORGE W. CAMPBELL, M.A., M.D.—Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Professor of Surgery.	CHARLES SMALLWOOD, M.D., LL.D., D.C.L.—Professor of Meteorology.
WILLIAM FRASER, M. D. F. GLASGOW F.P.&S.—Professor of the Institutes of Medicine.	CHARLES F. A. MARKGRAF, M.A.—Professor of German Language and Literature.
WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, M.D.—Emeritus Professor.	D. C. M'CALLUM, M.D.—Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children.
WILLIAM E. SCOTT, M. D.—Professor of Anatomy.	ALEXANDER JOHNSON, LL.D.—Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy.
WILLIAM WRIGHT, M.D.—Professor of Materia Medica and Pharmacy.	REV. GEORGE CORNISH, M.A.—Professor of Classical Literature.
ROBERT P. HOWARD, M.D.—Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine.	PIERRE J. DAREY, M.A.—Professor of French Language and Literature.
REV. A. DESOLA, LL.D.—Professor of Hebrew and Oriental Literature.	ROBERT CRAIK, M.D.—Professor of Chemistry.
HON. WILLIAM BADGLEY, D.C.L.—Professor of Public and Criminal Law.	T. STERRY HUNT, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.—Professor of Applied Chemistry.
	EDWARD CARTER, B.C.L.—Associate Professor of Criminal Law.
	JOSEPH M. DRAKE, M.D.—Professor (elect) of Clinical Medicine, (Late Demonstrator of Anatomy.)

May 26th, 1868.

(The original of the above has been sent to the Right Hon. William Chambers, Edinburgh.)

*Copies of Testimonials from Nova Scotia, given in connection with Candidature for the chair of Natural History in 1854-55.*

*From the Honourable WILLIAM YOUNG, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural History to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this Province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own Province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors of the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

*From SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, Knt., &c., Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
2nd January, 1855.

Sir,

The Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, Mr. Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. W. DAWSON, Esq.

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

*From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.  
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq. has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information:

Mr. Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr. Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr. Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, *Chairman of the Railway Board,*  
*late Provincial Secretary.*

Copies of Testimonials from Nova Scotia given in connection with Candidates for the Chair of Natural History  
in 1834-35

From the Honorable William Young, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.

HALifax, December 30, 1834.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq. of Halifax, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural History to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1818 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1820 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College on the same subject, and was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of the Schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won the highest public reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been dispersed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak therefore the sentiments of every member of the Government, while regretting his separation from his own Province in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors of the vacant

WILLIAM YOUNG,

ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

*Wm Dawson Esq*  
*Candidate*  
*1828*

From Sir J. G. Le Marchant, Knt, Secy. to the Hon. Governor of Nova Scotia.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

21st January 1835.

Having been long and intimately acquainted with you, Sir, I have great pleasure in certifying that you are eminently qualified, both by the solidity of your acquirements and by a peculiar aptitude you possess in communicating instruction, for the Professorship of Natural History to which you are now about to aspire. In the year 1818 you made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1820 you delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College on the same subject, and were then employed for three years as the Superintendent of the Schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and you have since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements you have won the highest public reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been dispersed by your conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak therefore the sentiments of every member of the Government, while regretting your separation from your own Province in expressing a hope that you may attain the object of your present ambition, and that your scientific attainments, already known in the mother country, may recommend you to the choice of the electors of the vacant

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

J. W. Dawson Esq.

From the Hon. Joseph Howe, the Provincial Secretary of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

28th Dec. 1834.

John W. Dawson Esq. has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information. Mr. Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province. Mr. Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains. Mr. Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style as a lecturer is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, Chairman of the Railway Board,  
the Provincial Secretary.

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Box

SELECTIONS

FROM

CERTIFICATES

IN FAVOUR OF

J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S.

STEELE 1022

CERTIFICATE

J. W. DAKSON, Esq., F.R.S.

GERMANY

THE CHAIR OF NAVAL HISTORY

J. W. DAKSON, Esq., F.R.S.

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

PRINTED BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESS, BIRMINGHAM



SELECTIONS

FROM

CERTIFICATES

IN FAVOUR OF

J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S.,

AS A CANDIDATE FOR

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH :

PRINTED BY HUGH PATON, 10 PRINCES STREET.

1855.

[MR J. W. DAWSON, OF PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA, having been strongly urged by his friends in this country to offer himself as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Professor Edward Forbes, at once acceded to a request so much in keeping with his own ambition,—and the following documents will shew the position he occupies as an applicant for the vacant Chair, and the opinions formed of his fitness by persons who may be considered competent to advise. The appointment being in the hands of the Crown, will account for there being no formal application prefixed to the Testimonials,—Sir Charles Lyell having most obligingly acted as Mr Dawson's medium of communication with the Government,—while the Testimonials themselves, hurriedly selected, are to be regarded rather as specimens of what might be obtained, than as exhausting Mr Dawson's case. They are presented in their present form, and copies respectfully transmitted to the Members of the Town Council and the Senatus Academicus, because of the deep interest which those gentlemen must feel concerning the future occupant of the Chair, and of the respect in which Mr Dawson, and the friends who act for him, hold the Patrons and Professors of the University.]

## SELECTIONS, &c.

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From J. W. DAWSON, Esq., to SIR CHARLES LYELL, M.A.,  
F.R.S., L.S., G.S., &c.

Pictou, January 2, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to solicit your good offices on my behalf, as a Candidate for the CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, and send herewith a statement of my scientific training, employments, and publications, and certificates relating to these subjects, and also to my personal character.

You will observe that my first systematic lessons in Natural History were received from the late Professor Jameson, in the winter of 1840–1, which I devoted wholly to the study of Natural Science, availing myself of all the aids that I could obtain in Edinburgh (*see certificates and tickets attached*). I was then 21 years of age, and had finished my academical course in Pictou Academy (then under the superintendence of the Rev. Dr M'Culloch), including the study of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

Before visiting Scotland, I had taken lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, had visited several of the most interesting coast sections in this country, and formed a considerable collection, and had read extensively in Geology. I was thus better prepared than most other students to profit by Professor Jameson's lectures, which were of great service in systematizing my store of knowledge and course of study and observation, and in instruct-

ing me in the principles and method of the determination of species.

With the Geological labours in which I have employed myself since 1841, you are well acquainted, as I had the pleasure of accompanying you in your tour through Nova Scotia in 1842; and since that time it has been principally through your kindness that my papers have been brought before the Geologists of Britain.

Other scientific and literary pursuits, of which you may perhaps not have been informed, are mentioned in the attached statement and certificates. Among these are two Courses of Lectures on Natural History, delivered in two of the Collegiate Institutions of this province; the Superintendence of Education in Nova Scotia, including a tour through the New England States and New York, with the object of collecting information on the schools of those countries; the delivery of Lectures on Education and Agricultural Chemistry; and the preparation of extended reports and statistics. I resigned the office of Superintendent in 1853, chiefly because it required almost continual absence from home and consequent neglect of the interests of my family.

I may also mention under this head, the collection and determination of the plants, shells, birds, and other natural productions of this province, assays of coal and metallic ores for several persons and companies in this and the neighbouring provinces, and surveys of mineral districts. To qualify myself more fully for work of this last description, when I revisited Scotland in 1846-7, I studied Chemical Analysis in the laboratory of Professor Gregory.

I have now nearly ready for the press a popular account of the Geology of this and portions of the neighbouring colonies, intended to attract more general attention to their useful minerals and to the many interesting illustrations which they afford of important geological facts, and especially of the plants and animals of the coal period.

I have had the honour of being appointed, in the last autumn, by His Excellency Sir Edmund W. Head, a member of the Commission on King's College, Frederickton; and had the privilege in that capacity of discussing with Dr Ryerson of Toronto the

subject of university reform, and aiding in the preparation of a report, of which, when published, I shall endeavour to send you a copy.

With respect to the merit that may attach to my labours in the above departments, I may refer you to the published papers with which you are already familiar, asking you, however, to bear in mind that they were written in circumstances which debarred me from access to libraries of reference and public collections, and therefore under great disadvantages as compared with naturalists resident in Great Britain. I may also refer you to the annexed certificates, for evidence that my educational efforts and public lectures have been highly appreciated by the people of this country.

If successful in attaining the important and honourable position to which I aspire, I need not assure you that I shall exert myself to the utmost to advance Natural History both as an instructor and as an original enquirer, and that nothing will give me greater pleasure than to aid and encourage those who may love the study of nature, and who may possibly be destined, in isolated positions and remote parts of the world, to contend with the difficulties which I have myself experienced. I may further assure you that I shall do all in my power to carry forward the important improvements in the course and appliances of instruction which I know were meditated and commenced by the late lamented occupant of the chair.—I am, yours very truly, and with sincere respect,

J. W. DAWSON.

Sir Charles Lyell, &c., &c.

*From* SIR CHARLES LYELL, *to* Sir Henry De la Beche, C.B.,  
&c., &c.

BERLIN, March 17, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,—I have just heard from Scotland that the friends of Mr Dawson are desirous of printing all the certificates written on his behalf as candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. Among other documents, they wish for a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of the Home Department (Sir G. Grey) on this subject; but as I do not return from Germany for some weeks, and have no copy of my letter at hand, you will, I am sure, have the kindness, when you have read this, to forward it to Edinburgh, if you think it will serve the same purpose.

I know that you appreciate highly as I do the printed papers of Mr Dawson on the Coal Fields of Nova Scotia, and other subjects, in the Journal of the Geological Society of London. I have twice had an opportunity, when travelling with him in North America, of estimating his great powers of original observation in the Fields, many of the results of which he has given in his published papers. I can also state that Dr Hooker is of opinion that the views and occasional speculations on the structure and probable relations of fossil plants set forth in several of Mr Dawson's Memoirs on the Carboniferous Strata, display much acuteness, sound judgment, and botanical knowledge. Mineralogy has been a favourite pursuit of Mr Dawson, and he has made no small progress in Zoology.

That any man should be eminent in all the branches embraced by the Edinburgh Chair, especially one under the age of thirty-five, is of course impossible; but with due reference to Mr Dawson's age, I consider his attainments as very remarkable, and combining them as he does with zeal and enthusiasm for science and a philosophical mind, he is, I believe, one of the few who would, if elected, prove a worthy successor to our late lamented friend, Professor E. Forbes.

Mr Dawson has had considerable practice in public speaking when officially employed in Nova Scotia as Inspector of Schools, and he has been successful as a lecturer.

The Governor-General of Canada, Sir Edmund Head, who is personally acquainted with Mr Dawson, and who appointed him to some post connected with the improvement of public education in New Brunswick, has written a letter in his favour to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

On my return to London, in a few weeks, I shall be happy to give any additional information which may be desired.—Believe me, my dear Sir Henry, ever truly yours,

CHA. LYELL.

Sir H. De la Beche, C. B., &c. &c.

*From* LEONARD HORNER, Esq., F.R.S. L. & E.

17 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, REGENT'S PARK,  
London, 19th March 1855.

I have had no opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of Mr Dawson; but I have formed a high opinion of him as a Geologist, from his numerous communications to the Geological Society. They shew not only great accuracy and a well-directed observation, united with a thorough acquaintance with his subjects, but that he has enlarged philosophical views in his most minute researches.

LEONARD HORNER, F.R.S. L. & E.

*From the Honourable* WILLIAM YOUNG, *Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural His-

tory to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy, and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors for the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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*From* SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, *Knt., &c., Lieutenant-Governor  
of Nova Scotia.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
2d January 1855.

SIR,

The Attorney-General of Nova-Scotia, Mr Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education



in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

---

*From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of the Province of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq., has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information.

Mr Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILWAY BOARD,  
late Provincial Secretary.

*From REV. A. FORRESTER, Presbyterian Minister and Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 4, 1854.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the high attainments of Mr Dawson in various branches of Natural History.

Though I had often heard of the geological researches of Mr Dawson in these provinces, and his contributions to the Geological Society of London, I made his acquaintance only five years ago, on occasion of his delivering a course of lectures on Natural History, in Dalhousie College, Halifax. These lectures were given at the request of the governors of that institution, were largely attended, and highly appreciated. Since then I have enjoyed much friendly intercourse with him, and repeatedly heard him lecture here before the Mechanics' Institute, and also at the late Provincial Industrial Exhibition; and am more and more firmly persuaded that Mr D. is not only a complete enthusiast in Natural History, but possessed of extensive attainments in all its departments, especially in Mineralogy and Geology, both theoretical and practical, as well as a great aptitude in communicating his stores of knowledge to others.

I know something of the diversified qualifications necessary for the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, and have no hesitation in saying that should Mr Dawson be chosen to occupy that honourable position, he will not only do credit to the University, but advance largely the general interests of science.

ALEXR. FORRESTER.

*From W. E. LOGAN, Esq., F.G.S., Provincial Geologist for  
Canada.*

MONTREAL, 17th February 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—It would give me great satisfaction and pleasure to hear of your success as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, as, in addition to your general fitness to discharge the duties of the position with credit to the University, you would carry to the other side of the Atlantic a detailed and extensive knowledge of the advance that has been made in the various branches of Natural History on this. In the branch with which my investigations are more particularly connected, you have yourself been a diligent worker, and Nova Scotia stands greatly indebted to you for your valuable and interesting contributions to her geology. The whole subject of American geology is one of rapidly increasing importance, and your intimate acquaintance with it, could not fail to bring a multitude of striking facts from the New World to illustrate and confirm the oft-repeated truths of the Old, and perhaps occasionally to correct some of its errors.

Although so much has been done within the last twenty years to portray American geology, and its features stand out in such gigantic proportions, a correct knowledge of its aspect scarcely yet prevails in Europe; and any one who could instil into the minds of the rising generation a true comparison between the two continents, would confer a great benefit on both, and materially advance Geological Science. Repeating my wishes for your success, I remain, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

W. E. LOGAN.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

---

*From HENRY POOLE, Esq., late Manager of the Albion  
Coal Mines.*

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE,  
20th January, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—As you inform me that you have offered yourself as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Natural History in Edinburgh University, I have much pleasure

in certifying that you executed several series of Assays of the Albion Coal Seams in Nova Scotia, at my request, for the "General Mining Association;" and the correctness of which were confirmed by subsequent trials made by other chemists and practical men. I can also testify that you have obtained a well-merited reputation in the British North American provinces as a popular lecturer on Natural History and educational subjects, and that the works which you have from time to time published on those subjects have been favourably received and generally read.

Having had the pleasure of your acquaintance during thirteen years, I can also distinctly speak of the high estimation in which your character is held by all classes, and for the upright and courteous manner in which you have conducted yourself towards all parties with whom you have had any intercourse.—I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly.

HENRY POOLE.

J. W. Dawson, Esq., Pictou.

---

*From* RICHARD BROWN, Esq., *Cape Breton, to Sir C. Lyell.*

SYDNEY MINES, CAPE BRETON,

January 1, 1855

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,—I have just learned from Mr Dawson, of Pictou, that he is a candidate for the Chair at Edinburgh, vacant by the lamented death of Professor Forbes.

I have known Mr Dawson many years, and have no hesitation in stating that he is a most exemplary young man in every relation of life. With respect to his Geological attainments, no one can speak better to the purpose than yourself. He has been employed by the Provincial Government, and at various times by the General Mining Association, in making Geological Explorations, Assays, &c., which he has invariably conducted with most praiseworthy zeal and intelligence.

I cannot but regret his departure from this province, but at the same time shall rejoice to hear of his succeeding in obtaining so honourable a position as the one he is now looking for. If you think my humble testimony will be of any service to him, pray make use of it as you think best, and believe me always, very respectfully, yours,

RICH<sup>d</sup>. BROWN.

Sir Charles Lyell.

*From* REV. A. W. HERDMAN, *Minister of the Established Church of Scotland.*

PICTOU, January 2, 1855.

I hereby certify that J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S., &c., has been known to me for some years past as an enlightened believer in the great truths of our holy religion, a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and a loyal subject of the British Crown; that he is talented and modest, as communicative as he is gifted, justly respected and courted, not only by his native community, but by the province which he has largely benefited, especially by his services some years ago as Superintendent of Education; and that, in short, he is likely to prove distinguished and useful wherever Providence may fix his lot.

AND W. W. HERDMAN, A.M.,  
Minister of St Andrew's Church.

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*From the* REV. JAMES BAYNE, *Presbyterian Minister.*

PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA,  
January 27, 1854.

This is to certify that John William Dawson, Esq., has been, for several years past, very favourably known to me as a person of very high promise and eminent attainments,—devoted and successful application to the various branches of Natural Science, zealous and able effort in the educational affairs of this province,—maintaining for a considerable period the arduous but honourable position of Public Superintendent of Education,—and that with all his well-known, extensive, and accurate acquaintance with the general principles of Natural Science, and its most intricate minutiae, he unites a remarkable facility of imparting to others the treasures of his richly-stored mind in the most attractive manner.

JAMES BAYNE, PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER.

From W. J. ANDERSON, Esq., *Secretary of the Pictou Academy.*

PICTOU December 27, 1854.

These certify that at the request of the Trustees of Pictou Academy, Mr J. W. Dawson, during the Session of 1848-9, delivered a course of thirty-two lectures on Natural History, in the Academy.

The lectures were attended to their close, with increasing interest, by many inhabitants of the town, as well as by pupils attending other classes in the Academy, who, at the termination of the course, testified their high gratification by unanimously passing a vote of thanks to Mr Dawson.

WM. JAS. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary, Pictou Academy.*

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*Statement in reference to Mr Dawson's Scientific Training, Published Papers, Lectures, &c.*

After completing studies in Classics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy, in Pictou Academy, Nova Scotia, taking lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, and spending some time in collecting specimens in Natural History, visited Edinburgh at the age of 21 years, and attended the lectures of Professor Jameson throughout the winter of 1840-41, and have his certificate for very regular attendance. Occupied the whole of the winter in studying books and specimens in Natural History, and especially Geology and Mineralogy, and in exploring the Geology in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

1841. On returning to Nova Scotia, contributed to Wernerian Society of Edinburgh a paper on *Meriones Labradoricus* and a species of *Arvicola*, and sent preserved specimens of these and other animals to Professor Jameson; also specimens of the rocks of Nova Scotia. ✓
1842. Accompanied Sir Charles Lyell in his tour in Nova Scotia, and assisted him, as acknowledged in his *Travels in North America*. ✓
1843. Paper on Lower Carboniferous or Gypsiferous Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, six woodcuts.—Proceedings of Geological Society of London. ✓
1844. Paper on the Upper or Newer Coal Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 8, four woodcuts and quarto map.—*Ibid*. ✓
1846. Notice of some Fossils found in Nova Scotia, and remarks on true nature of *Sternbergia* or *Artisia*, pp. 4, and figures. ✓

- Reports to General Mining Association and C. D. Archibald, Esq., on the Iron deposits of the Cobequid Mts. X
- Papers on the Gypsum of Nova Scotia, and on the Boulder Formation of that Province, contributed to Royal Society of Edinburgh, and printed in abstract in their proceedings. ✓
- In autumn of 1846, revisited Scotland and studied Chemical Analysis in Laboratory of Edinburgh University; also the art of preparing slices of fossil wood for the Microscope, use of the Blowpipe, &c.
- Paper on Destruction and Reproduction of Forests in North America, in Ed. Philosophical Journal. ✓
1847. Letter to Secretary of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, in answer to enquiries respecting origin of Gypsum of Nova Scotia, published in their Proceedings. Elected a corresponding member of the Academy.
- Paper on New Red Sandstone of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, quarto map and sections. Proc. Geol. Society. ✓
1848. Paper on the colouring matter of Red Sandstones and the white beds associated with them, pp. 6.—Proc. Geol. Society. ✓
- Paper on Gypsum of Plaister Cove, Cape Breton, pp. 5, three woodcuts. ✓
- Ibid.*
- Paper on the Wheat Midge (*Cecidomyia Tritici*).—Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil. ✓
- Report on Geological Survey of Coal Fields of Southern Cape Breton.—Journals of Legislature of Nova Scotia. ✓
- Handbook of the Geography and Natural History of Nova Scotia, pp. 95, and map. ✓
- Delivered a Course of 32 Lectures on Natural History in Pictou Academy, to students and others.
1849. Paper on the Metamorphic Rocks of Nova Scotia, pp. 17, four woodcuts.—Proc. Geol. Soc. ✓
- Paper on Erect Calamites in the Coal Formation near Pictou, pp. 3, three woodcuts.—*Ibid.* ✓
- Reported on Iron Veins of Great Village River for Acadia Mining Company. X
- Executed a series of Assays of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
- Delivered a course of 24 Lectures on Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology, and Geology, in Dalhousie College, Halifax, to students and others, and taught a practical class in use of the Blowpipe and Mineralogy.
1850. Appointed Superintendent of Education; visited schools in New England and New York, and reported on their systems of instruction.
- Delivered Public Lectures throughout Nova Scotia on Education and Agricultural Chemistry, and gave Instructions and Lectures to Teachers' Institutes.
- First Report on Schools of Nova Scotia, pp. 127. *for 1850* ✓
1851. Second Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—Lectured, &c., as above, and collected information and specimens relating to the Natural History of Nova Scotia. =
1852. Third Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—Scientific Contributions towards the Improvement of Agriculture in Nova Scotia, pp. 100. =

- ✕ Paper on Nature and Causes of Potato Blight—in Massachusetts Agricultural Transactions, pp. 10.  
 ✓ Supplementary Paper on New Red Sandstone.—Proc. Geol. Soc., pp. 3, two woodcuts.  
 Examined section of South Joggins in company with Sir Charles Lyell.  
 ✓ Joint Paper with Sir Charles Lyell on remains of a Reptile and Land Shell found at South Joggins.—Proc. Geol. Soc.  
 ✓ Paper on the Albert Mine, Hillsborough, New Brunswick, pp. 8, seven woodcuts.—*Ibid.*  
 Resigned Office of Superintendent of Education.  
 ✓ 1853.—Paper on Coal Measures of South Joggins, pp. 41, twenty-five woodcuts.—*Ibid.*  
 ✓ Joint Paper with Mr Poole on Albion Mines.—*Ibid.*  
 Assayed and Reported on thirty-three samples of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.  
 ✓ Hints to the Farmers of Nova Scotia on Live Stock and General Husbandry, prepared for the Government of Nova Scotia, pp. 148.  
 Appointed one of the Directors of the Provincial Normal School, Nova Scotia.  
 ✓ 1854. Paper on the Discovery of a New Carboniferous Reptile (Baphetes Planiceps—Owen.)—Com. to Geol. Soc.  
 Acted with Dr Ryerson and other gentlemen on commission on King's College, Frederickton, by appointment of Sir E. W. Head.  
 Elected Fellow of Geological Society, London.  
 Issued prospectus of a work of 300 pages on the Geology of Nova Scotia and neighbouring Colonies, now passing through the Edinburgh press under the superintendence of Messrs Oliver and Boyd.

February 1855.



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*Selections  
from*

CERTIFICATES

IN FAVOUR OF

J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S

Box 6.

*Handwritten scribble*

*Leicester  
Mass*

CERTIFICATES

J. W. DAWSON, ESQ., M.D.

SELECTIONS

FROM

CERTIFICATES

IN FAVOUR OF

J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S.

ERRATA

CERTIFICATE

PRINTED

J. W. DAWSON, Esq. F.R.S.

CERTIFICATE

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY

J. W. DAWSON, Esq. F.R.S.

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

PRINTED BY...

1852

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J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S.,

AS A CANDIDATE FOR

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY

IN THE

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PRINTED BY HUGH PATON, 10 PRINCES STREET.

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[MR J. W. DAWSON, OF PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA, having been strongly urged by his friends in this country to offer himself as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Professor Edward Forbes, at once acceded to a request so much in keeping with his own ambition,—and the following documents will shew the position he occupies as an applicant for the vacant Chair, and the opinions formed of his fitness by persons who may be considered competent to advise. The appointment being in the hands of the Crown, will account for there being no formal application prefixed to the Testimonials,—Sir Charles Lyell having most obligingly acted as Mr Dawson's medium of communication with the Government,—while the Testimonials themselves, hurriedly selected, are to be regarded rather as specimens of what might be obtained, than as exhausting Mr Dawson's case. They are presented in their present form, and copies respectfully transmitted to the Members of the Town Council and the Senatus Academicus, because of the deep interest which those gentlemen must feel concerning the future occupant of the Chair, and of the respect in which Mr Dawson, and the friends who act for him, hold the Patrons and Professors of the University.]



## SELECTIONS, &c.

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*From J. W. DAWSON, Esq., to SIR CHARLES LYELL, M.A.,  
F.R.S., L.S., G.S., &c.*

Pictou, January 2, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to solicit your good offices on my behalf, as a Candidate for the CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, and send herewith a statement of my scientific training, employments, and publications, and certificates relating to these subjects, and also to my personal character.

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Before visiting Scotland, I had taken lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, had visited several of the most interesting coast sections in this country, and formed a considerable collection, and had read extensively in Geology. I was thus better prepared than most other students to profit by Professor Jameson's lectures, which were of great service in systematizing my store of knowledge and course of study and observation, and in instruct-

ing me in the principles and method of the determination of species.

With the Geological labours in which I have employed myself since 1841, you are well acquainted, as I had the pleasure of accompanying you in your tour through Nova Scotia in 1842; and since that time it has been principally through your kindness that my papers have been brought before the Geologists of Britain.

Other scientific and literary pursuits, of which you may perhaps not have been informed, are mentioned in the attached statement and certificates. Among these are two Courses of Lectures on Natural History, delivered in two of the Collegiate Institutions of this province; the Superintendence of Education in Nova Scotia, including a tour through the New England States and New York, with the object of collecting information on the schools of those countries; the delivery of Lectures on Education and Agricultural Chemistry; and the preparation of extended reports and statistics. I resigned the office of Superintendent in 1853, chiefly because it required almost continual absence from home and consequent neglect of the interests of my family.

I may also mention under this head, the collection and determination of the plants, shells, birds, and other natural productions of this province, assays of coal and metallic ores for several persons and companies in this and the neighbouring provinces, and surveys of mineral districts. To qualify myself more fully for work of this last description, when I revisited Scotland in 1846-7, I studied Chemical Analysis in the laboratory of Professor Gregory.

I have now nearly ready for the press a popular account of the Geology of this and portions of the neighbouring colonies, intended to attract more general attention to their useful minerals and to the many interesting illustrations which they afford of important geological facts, and especially of the plants and animals of the coal period.

I have had the honour of being appointed, in the last autumn, by His Excellency Sir Edmund W. Head, a member of the Commission on King's College, Frederickton; and had the privilege in that capacity of discussing with Dr Ryerson of Toronto the

subject of university reform, and aiding in the preparation of a report, of which, when published, I shall endeavour to send you a copy.

With respect to the merit that may attach to my labours in the above departments, I may refer you to the published papers with which you are already familiar, asking you, however, to bear in mind that they were written in circumstances which debarred me from access to libraries of reference and public collections, and therefore under great disadvantages as compared with naturalists resident in Great Britain. I may also refer you to the annexed certificates, for evidence that my educational efforts and public lectures have been highly appreciated by the people of this country.

If successful in attaining the important and honourable position to which I aspire, I need not assure you that I shall exert myself to the utmost to advance Natural History both as an instructor and as an original enquirer, and that nothing will give me greater pleasure than to aid and encourage those who may love the study of nature, and who may possibly be destined, in isolated positions and remote parts of the world, to contend with the difficulties which I have myself experienced. I may further assure you that I shall do all in my power to carry forward the important improvements in the course and appliances of instruction which I know were meditated and commenced by the late lamented occupant of the chair.—I am, yours very truly, and with sincere respect,

J. W. DAWSON.

Sir Charles Lyell, &c., &c.

*From* SIR CHARLES LYELL, *to* Sir Henry De la Beche, C.B.,  
&c., &c.

BERLIN, March 17, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,—I have just heard from Scotland that the friends of Mr Dawson are desirous of printing all the certificates written on his behalf as candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. Among other documents, they wish for a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of the Home Department (Sir G. Grey) on this subject; but as I do not return from Germany for some weeks, and have no copy of my letter at hand, you will, I am sure, have the kindness, when you have read this, to forward it to Edinburgh, if you think it will serve the same purpose.

I know that you appreciate highly as I do the printed papers of Mr Dawson on the Coal Fields of Nova Scotia, and other subjects, in the Journal of the Geological Society of London. I have twice had an opportunity, when travelling with him in North America, of estimating his great powers of original observation in the Fields, many of the results of which he has given in his published papers. I can also state that Dr Hooker is of opinion that the views and occasional speculations on the structure and probable relations of fossil plants set forth in several of Mr Dawson's Memoirs on the Carboniferous Strata, display much acuteness, sound judgment, and botanical knowledge. Mineralogy has been a favourite pursuit of Mr Dawson, and he has made no small progress in Zoology.

That any man should be eminent in all the branches embraced by the Edinburgh Chair, especially one under the age of thirty-five, is of course impossible; but with due reference to Mr Dawson's age, I consider his attainments as very remarkable, and combining them as he does with zeal and enthusiasm for science and a philosophical mind, he is, I believe, one of the few who would, if elected, prove a worthy successor to our late lamented friend, Professor E. Forbes.

Mr Dawson has had considerable practice in public speaking when officially employed in Nova Scotia as Inspector of Schools, and he has been successful as a lecturer.

The Governor-General of Canada, Sir Edmund Head, who is personally acquainted with Mr Dawson, and who appointed him to some post connected with the improvement of public education in New Brunswick, has written a letter in his favour to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

On my return to London, in a few weeks, I shall be happy to give any additional information which may be desired.—Believe me, my dear Sir Henry, ever truly yours,

CHA. LYELL.

Sir H. De la Beche, C. B., &c. &c.

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*From* LEONARD HORNER, Esq., F.R.S. L. & E.

17 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, REGENT'S PARK,  
London, 19th March 1855.

I have had no opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of Mr Dawson; but I have formed a high opinion of him as a Geologist, from his numerous communications to the Geological Society. They shew not only great accuracy and a well-directed observation, united with a thorough acquaintance with his subjects, but that he has enlarged philosophical views in his most minute researches.

LEONARD HORNER, F.R.S. L. & E.

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*From the Honourable* WILLIAM YOUNG, *Attorney-General of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural His-

tory to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy, and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors for the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

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*From* SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, *Knt., &c., Lieutenant-Governor  
of Nova Scotia.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
2d January 1855.

SIR,

The Attorney-General of Nova-Scotia, Mr Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education

in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

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*From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of the Province of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq., has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information.

Mr Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILWAY BOARD,  
late Provincial Secretary.

*From REV. A. FORRESTER, Presbyterian Minister and Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 4, 1854.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the high attainments of Mr Dawson in various branches of Natural History.

Though I had often heard of the geological researches of Mr Dawson in these provinces, and his contributions to the Geological Society of London, I made his acquaintance only five years ago, on occasion of his delivering a course of lectures on Natural History, in Dalhousie College, Halifax. These lectures were given at the request of the governors of that institution, were largely attended, and highly appreciated. Since then I have enjoyed much friendly intercourse with him, and repeatedly heard him lecture here before the Mechanics' Institute, and also at the late Provincial Industrial Exhibition; and am more and more firmly persuaded that Mr D. is not only a complete enthusiast in Natural History, but possessed of extensive attainments in all its departments, especially in Mineralogy and Geology, both theoretical and practical, as well as a great aptitude in communicating his stores of knowledge to others.

I know something of the diversified qualifications necessary for the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, and have no hesitation in saying that should Mr Dawson be chosen to occupy that honourable position, he will not only do credit to the University, but advance largely the general interests of science.

ALEXR. FORRESTER.



*From* W. E. LOGAN, Esq., F.G.S., *Provincial Geologist for Canada.*

MONTREAL, 17th February 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—It would give me great satisfaction and pleasure to hear of your success as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, as, in addition to your general fitness to discharge the duties of the position with credit to the University, you would carry to the other side of the Atlantic a detailed and extensive knowledge of the advance that has been made in the various branches of Natural History on this. In the branch with which my investigations are more particularly connected, you have yourself been a diligent worker, and Nova Scotia stands greatly indebted to you for your valuable and interesting contributions to her geology. The whole subject of American geology is one of rapidly increasing importance, and your intimate acquaintance with it, could not fail to bring a multitude of striking facts from the New World to illustrate and confirm the oft-repeated truths of the Old, and perhaps occasionally to correct some of its errors.

Although so much has been done within the last twenty years to portray American geology, and its features stand out in such gigantic proportions, a correct knowledge of its aspect scarcely yet prevails in Europe; and any one who could instil into the minds of the rising generation a true comparison between the two continents, would confer a great benefit on both, and materially advance Geological Science. Repeating my wishes for your success, I remain, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

W. E. LOGAN.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

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*From* HENRY POOLE, Esq., *late Manager of the Albion Coal Mines.*

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE,  
20th January, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—As you inform me that you have offered yourself as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Natural History in Edinburgh University, I have much pleasure

in certifying that you executed several series of Assays of the Albion Coal Seams in Nova Scotia, at my request, for the "General Mining Association;" and the correctness of which were confirmed by subsequent trials made by other chemists and practical men. I can also testify that you have obtained a well-merited reputation in the British North American provinces as a popular lecturer on Natural History and educational subjects, and that the works which you have from time to time published on those subjects have been favourably received and generally read.

Having had the pleasure of your acquaintance during thirteen years, I can also distinctly speak of the high estimation in which your character is held by all classes, and for the upright and courteous manner in which you have conducted yourself towards all parties with whom you have had any intercourse.—I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly.

HENRY POOLE.

J. W. Dawson, Esq., Pictou.

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*From* RICHARD BROWN, Esq., *Cape Breton, to Sir C. Lyell.*

SYDNEY MINES, CAPE BRETON,  
January 1, 1855

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,—I have just learned from Mr Dawson, of Pictou, that he is a candidate for the Chair at Edinburgh, vacant by the lamented death of Professor Forbes.

I have known Mr Dawson many years, and have no hesitation in stating that he is a most exemplary young man in every relation of life. With respect to his Geological attainments, no one can speak better to the purpose than yourself. He has been employed by the Provincial Government, and at various times by the General Mining Association, in making Geological Explorations, Assays, &c., which he has invariably conducted with most praiseworthy zeal and intelligence.

I cannot but regret his departure from this province, but at the same time shall rejoice to hear of his succeeding in obtaining so honourable a position as the one he is now looking for. If you think my humble testimony will be of any service to him, pray make use of it as you think best, and believe me always, very respectfully, yours,

RICH<sup>d</sup>. BROWN.

Sir Charles Lyell.

*From* REV. A. W. HERDMAN, *Minister of the Established Church of Scotland.*

PICTOU, January 2, 1855.

I hereby certify that J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S., &c., has been known to me for some years past as an enlightened believer in the great truths of our holy religion, a devoted member of the Presbyterian Church, and a loyal subject of the British Crown; that he is talented and modest, as communicative as he is gifted, justly respected and courted, not only by his native community, but by the province which he has largely benefited, especially by his services some years ago as Superintendent of Education; and that, in short, he is likely to prove distinguished and useful wherever Providence may fix his lot.

AND W. W. HERDMAN, A.M.,  
Minister of St Andrew's Church.

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*From the* REV. JAMES BAYNE, *Presbyterian Minister.*

PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA,  
January 27, 1854.

This is to certify that John William Dawson, Esq., has been, for several years past, very favourably known to me as a person of very high promise and eminent attainments,—devoted and successful application to the various branches of Natural Science, zealous and able effort in the educational affairs of this province,—maintaining for a considerable period the arduous but honourable position of Public Superintendent of Education,—and that with all his well-known, extensive, and accurate acquaintance with the general principles of Natural Science, and its most intricate minutæ, he unites a remarkable facility of imparting to others the treasures of his richly-stored mind in the most attractive manner.

JAMES BAYNE, PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER.

From W. J. ANDERSON, Esq., *Secretary of the Pictou Academy.*

Pictou, December 27, 1854.

These certify that at the request of the Trustees of Pictou Academy, Mr J. W. Dawson, during the Session of 1848-9, delivered a course of thirty-two lectures on Natural History, in the Academy.

The lectures were attended to their close, with increasing interest, by many inhabitants of the town, as well as by pupils attending other classes in the Academy, who, at the termination of the course, testified their high gratification by unanimously passing a vote of thanks to Mr Dawson.

WM. JAS. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary, Pictou Academy.*

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*Statement in reference to Mr Dawson's Scientific Training, Published Papers, Lectures, &c.*

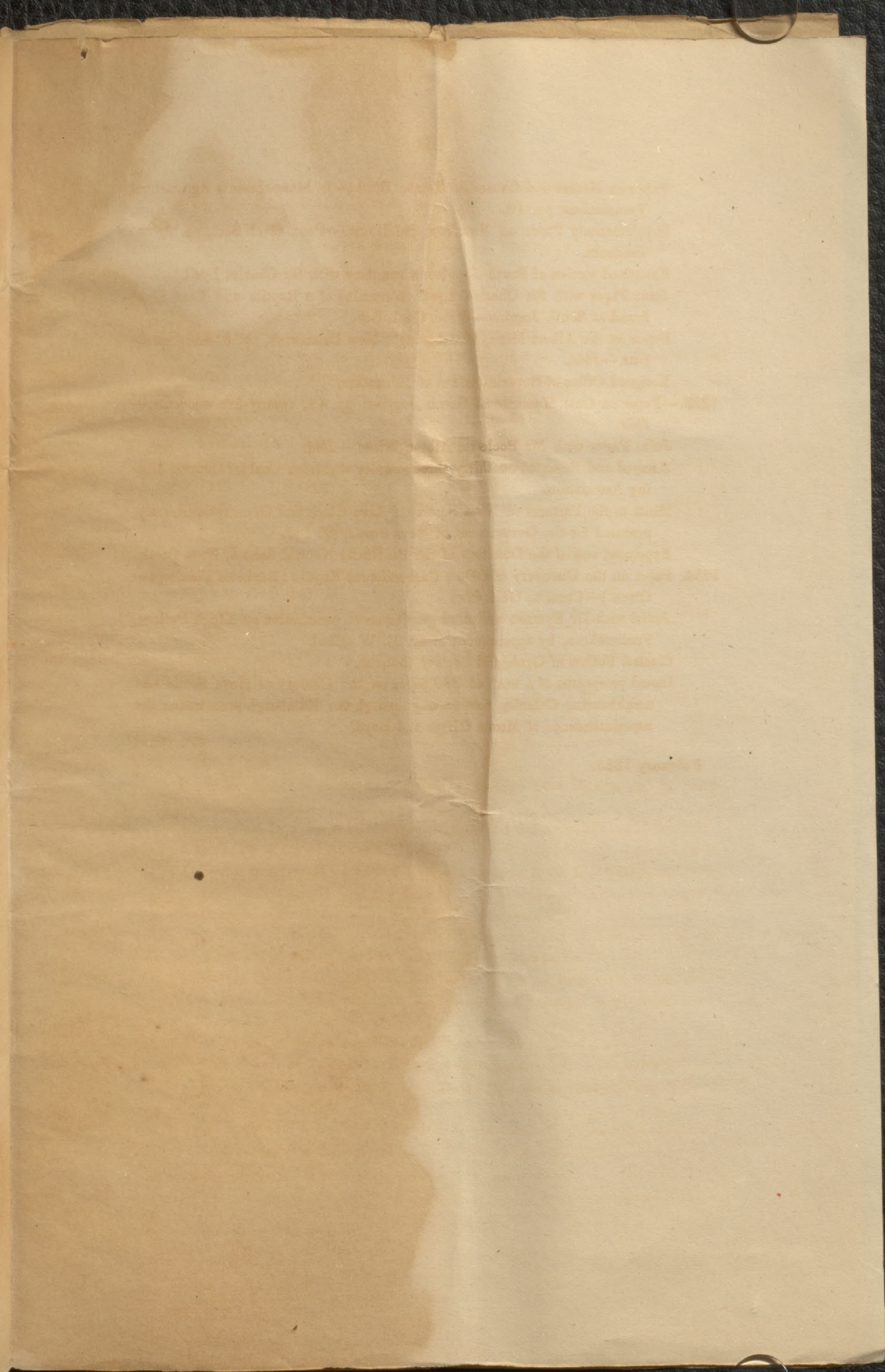
After completing studies in Classics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy, in Pictou Academy, Nova Scotia, taking lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, and spending some time in collecting specimens in Natural History, visited Edinburgh at the age of 21 years, and attended the lectures of Professor Jameson throughout the winter of 1840-41, and have his certificate for very regular attendance. Occupied the whole of the winter in studying books and specimens in Natural History, and especially Geology and Mineralogy, and in exploring the Geology in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

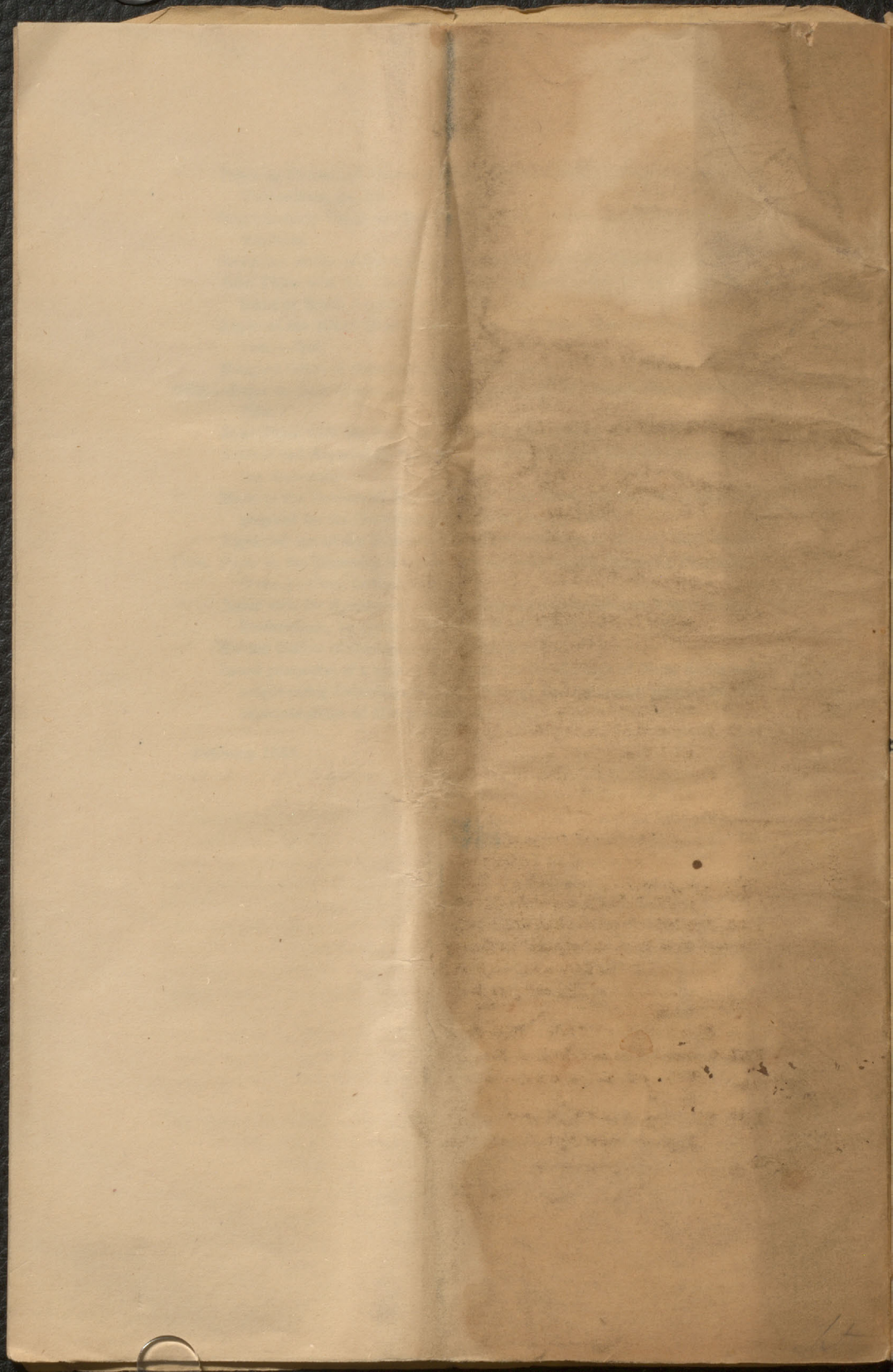
1841. On returning to Nova Scotia, contributed to Wernerian Society of Edinburgh a paper on Meriones Labradoricus and a species of Arvicola, and sent preserved specimens of these and other animals to Professor Jameson; also specimens of the rocks of Nova Scotia.
1842. Accompanied Sir Charles Lyell in his tour in Nova Scotia, and assisted him, as acknowledged in his Travels in North America.
1843. Paper on Lower Carboniferous or Gypsiferous Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, six woodcuts.—Proceedings of Geological Society of London.
1844. Paper on the Upper or Newer Coal Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 8, four woodcuts and quarto map.—*Ibid.*
1846. Notice of some Fossils found in Nova Scotia, and remarks on true nature of Sternbergia or Artisia, pp. 4, and figures.

- Reports to General Mining Association and C. D. Archibald, Esq., on the Iron deposits of the Cobequid Mts.
- Papers on the Gypsum of Nova Scotia, and on the Boulder Formation of that Province, contributed to Royal Society of Edinburgh, and printed in abstract in their proceedings.
- In autumn of 1846, revisited Scotland and studied Chemical Analysis in Laboratory of Edinburgh University; also the art of preparing slices of fossil wood for the Microscope, use of the Blowpipe, &c.
- Paper on Destruction and Reproduction of Forests in North America, in Ed. Philosophical Journal.
1847. Letter to Secretary of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, in answer to enquiries respecting origin of Gypsum of Nova Scotia, published in their Proceedings. Elected a corresponding member of the Academy.
- Paper on New Red Sandstone of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, quarto map and sections. Proc. Geol. Society.
1848. Paper on the colouring matter of Red Sandstones and the white beds associated with them, pp. 6.—Proc. Geol. Society.
- Paper on Gypsum of Plaister Cove, Cape Breton, pp. 5, three woodcuts.  
*Ibid.*
- Paper on the Wheat Midge (*Cecidomyia Tritici*).—Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil.
- Report on Geological Survey of Coal Fields of Southern Cape Breton.—Journals of Legislature of Nova Scotia.
- Handbook of the Geography and Natural History of Nova Scotia, pp. 95, and map.
- Delivered a Course of 32 Lectures on Natural History in Pictou Academy, to students and others.
1849. Paper on the Metamorphic Rocks of Nova Scotia, pp. 17, four woodcuts.—Proc. Geol. Soc.
- Paper on Erect Calamites in the Coal Formation near Pictou, pp. 3, three woodcuts.—*Ibid.*
- Reported on Iron Veins of Great Village River for Acadia Mining Company.
- Executed a series of Assays of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
- Delivered a course of 24 Lectures on Mineralogy, Botany, Zoology, and Geology, in Dalhousie College, Halifax, to students and others, and taught a practical class in use of the Blowpipe and Mineralogy.
1850. Appointed Superintendent of Education; visited schools in New England and New York, and reported on their systems of instruction.
- Delivered Public Lectures throughout Nova Scotia on Education and Agricultural Chemistry, and gave Instructions and Lectures to Teachers' Institutes.
- First Report on Schools of Nova Scotia, pp. 127.
1851. Second Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—Lectured, &c., as above, and collected information and specimens relating to the Natural History of Nova Scotia.
1852. Third Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—Scientific Contributions towards the Improvement of Agriculture in Nova Scotia, pp. 100.

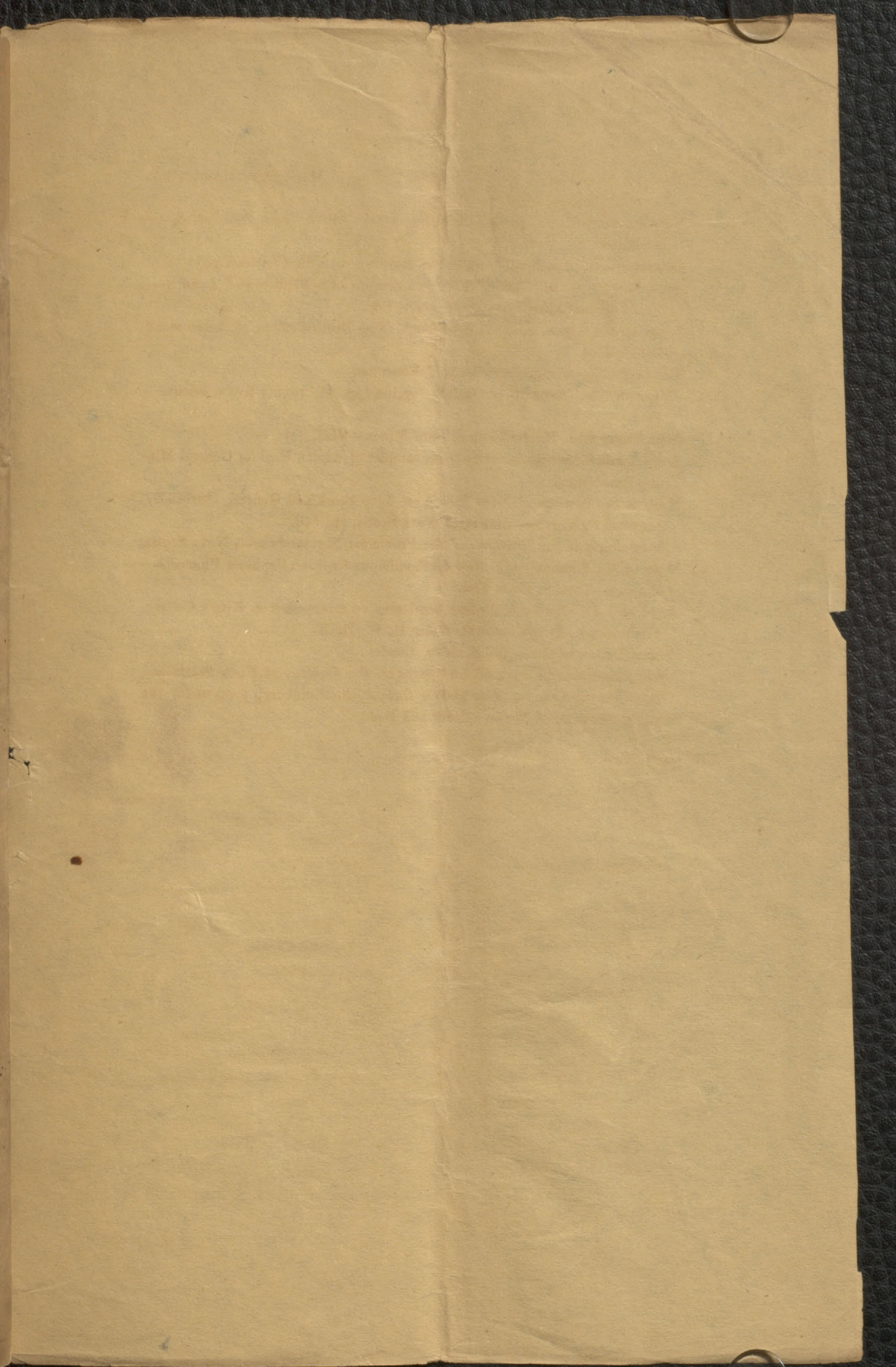
- Paper on Nature and Causes of Potato Blight—in Massachusetts Agricultural Transactions, pp. 10.
- Supplementary Paper on New Red Sandstone.—Proc. Geol. Soc., pp. 3, two woodcuts.
- Examined section of South Joggins in company with Sir Charles Lyell.
- Joint Paper with Sir Charles Lyell on remains of a Reptile and Land Shell found at South Joggins.—Proc. Geol. Soc.
- Paper on the Albert Mine, Hillsborough, New Brunswick, pp. 8, seven woodcuts.—*Ibid.*
- Resigned Office of Superintendent of Education.
- 1853.—Paper on Coal Measures of South Joggins, pp. 41, twenty-five woodcuts.—*Ibid.*
- Joint Paper with Mr Poole on Albion Mines.—*Ibid.*
- Assayed and Reported on thirty-three samples of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
- Hints to the Farmers of Nova Scotia on Live Stock and General Husbandry, prepared for the Government of Nova Scotia, pp. 148.
- Appointed one of the Directors of the Provincial Normal School, Nova Scotia.
1854. Paper on the Discovery of a New Carboniferous Reptile (*Baphetes Planiceps*—Owen).—Com. to Geol. Soc.
- Acted with Dr Ryerson and other gentlemen on commission on King's College, Frederickton, by appointment of Sir E. W. Head.
- Elected Fellow of Geological Society, London.
- Issued prospectus of a work of 300 pages on the Geology of Nova Scotia and neighbouring Colonies, now passing through the Edinburgh press under the superintendence of Messrs Oliver and Boyd.

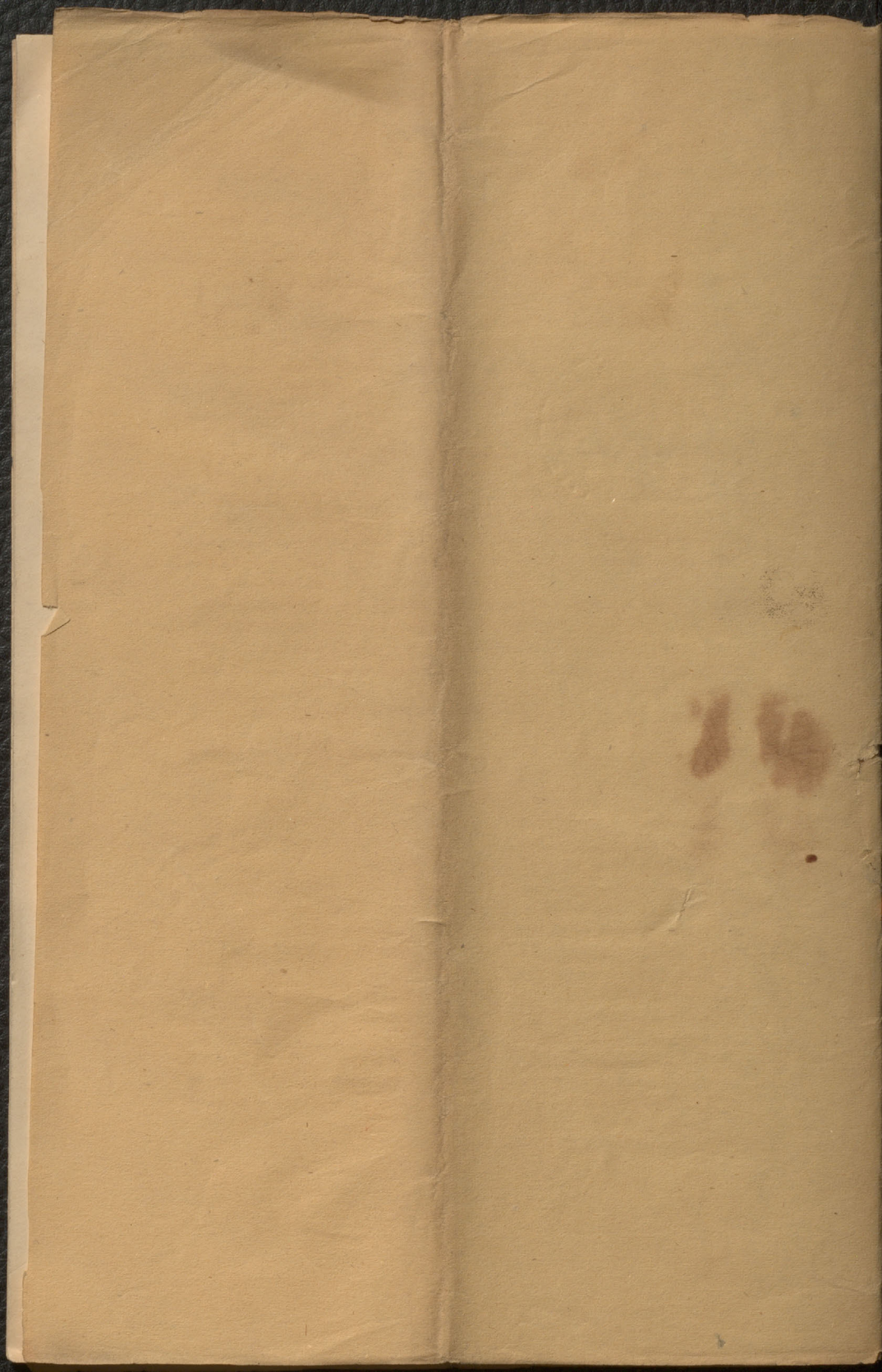
February 1855.











SELECTIONS

FROM

CERTIFICATES

IN FAVOUR OF

J. W. DAWSON, Esq., F.G.S.,

AS A CANDIDATE FOR

THE CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED BY HUGH PATON, 10 PRINCES STREET.

1855.

[MR J. W. DAWSON, OF PICTOU, NOVA SCOTIA, having been strongly urged by his friends in this country to offer himself as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, vacant by the death of Professor Edward Forbes, at once acceded to a request so much in keeping with his own ambition,—and the following documents will shew the position he occupies as an applicant for the vacant Chair, and the opinions formed of his fitness by persons who may be considered competent to advise. The appointment being in the hands of the Crown, will account for their being no formal application prefixed to the Testimonials,—Sir Charles Lyell having most obligingly acted as Mr Dawson's medium of communication with the Government,—while the Testimonials themselves, hurriedly selected, are to be regarded rather as specimens of what might be obtained, than as exhausting Mr Dawson's case. They are presented in their present form, and copies respectfully transmitted to the Members of the Town Council and the Senatus Academicus, because of the deep interest which those gentlemen must feel concerning the future occupant of the Chair, and of the respect in which Mr Dawson, and the friends who act for him, hold the Patrons and Professors of the University.]

## SELECTIONS, &c.

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Pictou, January 2, 1855.

SIR CHARLES LYELL,

MY DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to solicit your good offices on my behalf, as a Candidate for the CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH, and send herewith a statement of my scientific training, employments, and publications, and certificates relating to these subjects, and also to my personal character.

You will observe that my first systematic lessons in Natural History were received from the late Professor Jameson, in the winter of 1840-1, which I devoted wholly to the study of Natural Science, availing myself of all the aids that I could obtain in Edinburgh (*see certificates and tickets attached*). I was then 21 years of age, and had finished my academical course in Pictou Academy (then under the superintendence of the Rev. Dr M'Culloch), including the study of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

Before visiting Scotland, I had taken lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, had visited several of the most interesting coast sections in this country, and formed a considerable collection, and had read extensively in Geology. I was thus better prepared than most other students to profit by Professor Jameson's lectures, which were of great service in systematizing my store of knowledge and course of study and observation, and in instruct-

ing me in the principles and method of the determination of species.

With the Geological labours in which I have employed myself since 1841, you are well acquainted, as I had the pleasure of accompanying you in your tour through Nova Scotia in 1842; and since that time it has been principally through your kindness that my papers have been brought before the Geologists of Britain.

Other scientific and literary pursuits, of which you may perhaps not have been informed, are mentioned in the attached statement and certificates. Among these are two Courses of Lectures on Natural History, delivered in two of the Collegiate Institutions of this province; the Superintendence of Education in Nova Scotia, including a tour through the New England States and New York, with the object of collecting information on the schools of those countries; the delivery of Lectures on Education and Agricultural Chemistry; and the preparation of extended reports and statistics. I resigned the office of Superintendent in 1853, chiefly because it required almost continual absence from home and consequent neglect of the interests of my family.

I may also mention under this head, the collection and determination of the plants, shells, birds, and other natural productions of this province, assays of coal and metallic ores for several persons and companies in this and the neighbouring provinces, and surveys of mineral districts. To qualify myself more fully for work of this last description, when I revisited Scotland in 1846-7, I studied Chemical Analysis in the laboratory of Professor Gregory.

I have now nearly ready for the press a popular account of the Geology of this and portions of the neighbouring colonies, intended to attract more general attention to their useful minerals and to the many interesting illustrations which they afford of important geological facts, and especially of the plants and animals of the coal period.

I have had the honour of being appointed, in the last autumn, by His Excellency Sir Edmund W. Head, a member of the Commission on King's College, Frederickton; and had the privilege in that capacity of discussing with Dr Ryerson of Toronto the

subject of university reform, and aiding in the preparation of a report, of which, when published, I shall endeavour to send you a copy.

With respect to the merit that may attach to my labours in the above departments, I may refer you to the published papers with which you are already familiar, asking you, however, to bear in mind that they were written in circumstances which debarred me from access to libraries of reference and public collections, and therefore under great disadvantages as compared with naturalists resident in Great Britain. I may also refer you to the annexed certificates, for evidence that my educational efforts and public lectures have been highly appreciated by the people of this country.

If successful in attaining the important and honourable position to which I aspire, I need not assure you that I shall exert myself to the utmost to advance Natural History both as an instructor and as an original enquirer, and that nothing will give me greater pleasure than to aid and encourage those who may love the study of nature, and who may possibly be destined, in isolated positions and remote parts of the world, to contend with the difficulties which I have myself experienced. I may further assure you that I shall do all in my power to carry forward the important improvements in the course and appliances of instruction which I know were meditated and commenced by the late lamented occupant of the chair.—I am, yours very truly, and with sincere respect,

J. W. DAWSON.

16

*From* SIR CHARLES LYELL, M.A., F.R.S., L.S., G.L., &c., *to*  
*Sir Henry De la Beche, C. B., &c., &c.*

BERLIN, March 17, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,—I have just heard from Scotland that the friends of Mr Dawson are desirous of printing all the certificates written on his behalf as candidate for the vacant Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. Among other documents, they wish for a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Secretary of the Home Department (Sir G. Grey) on this subject; but as I do not return from Germany for some weeks, and have no copy of my letter at hand, you will, I am sure, have the kindness, when you have read this, to forward it to Edinburgh, if you think it will serve the same purpose.

I know that you appreciate highly as I do the printed papers of Mr Dawson on the Coal Fields of Nova Scotia, and other subjects, in the Journal of the Geological Society of London. I have twice had an opportunity, when travelling with him in North America, of estimating his great powers of original observation in the Fields, many of the results of which he has given in his published papers. I can also state that Dr Hooker is of opinion that the views and occasional speculations on the structure and probable relations of fossil plants set forth in several of Mr Dawson's Memoirs on the Carboniferous Strata, display much acuteness, sound judgment, and botanical knowledge. Mineralogy has been a favourite pursuit of Mr Dawson, and he has made no small progress in Zoology.

That any man should be eminent in all the branches embraced by the Edinburgh Chair, especially one under the age of thirty-five, is of course impossible; but with due reference to Mr Dawson's age, I consider his attainments as very remarkable, and combining them as he does with zeal and enthusiasm for science and a philosophical mind, he is, I believe, one of the few who would, if elected, prove a worthy successor to our late lamented friend, Professor E. Forbes.

Mr Dawson has had considerable practice in public speaking when officially employed in Nova Scotia as Inspector of Schools, and he has been successful as a lecturer.



The Governor-General of Canada, Sir Edmund Head, who is personally acquainted with Mr Dawson, and who appointed him to some post connected with the improvement of public education in New Brunswick, has written a letter in his favour to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

On my return to London, in a few weeks, I shall be happy to give any additional information which may be desired.—Believe me, my dear Sir Henry, ever truly yours,

CHA. LYELL.

Sir H. De la Beche, C. B., &c. &c.

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From LEONARD HORNER, Esq., F.R.S. L. & E.

17 QUEEN'S ROAD WEST, REGENT'S PARK,  
London, 19th March 1855.

I have had no opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of Mr Dawson; but I have formed a high opinion of him as a Geologist, from his numerous communications to the Geological Society. They shew not only great accuracy and a well-directed observation, united with a thorough acquaintance with his subjects, but that he has enlarged philosophical views in his most minute researches.

LEONARD HORNER, F.R.S. L. & E.

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From the Honourable WILLIAM YOUNG, Attorney-General of  
Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, December 30, 1854.

I have great pleasure in certifying that having been long and intimately acquainted with John W. Dawson, Esq., of Pictou, I consider him eminently qualified, both by the solidity of his acquirements, and by a peculiar aptitude he possesses in communicating instruction, for the Professorship in Natural His-

tory to which he is now about to aspire. In the year 1848 he made a scientific exploration of the Coal Fields of Cape Breton. In 1850 he delivered a course of lectures in Dalhousie College, on Botany, Zoology, Mineralogy, and Geology. He was then employed for three years as the Superintendent of Education in this province, having visited the schools of New England and New York, and reported on their condition for the guidance of our Legislature; and he has since prepared an elementary work on Rural Economy and Live Stock, which has been extensively circulated at the public expense. In these various engagements he has won for himself a high reputation for real talent, while all opposition has been disarmed by his conciliating manners and modesty of deportment. I speak, therefore, the sentiments of every member of the government, while regretting his separation from his own province, in expressing a hope that he may attain the object of his present ambition, and that his scientific attainments, already favourably known in the mother country, may recommend him to the choice of the electors for the vacant chair.

WILLIAM YOUNG,  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

*From* SIR J. G. LE MARCHANT, *Knt., &c., Lieutenant-Governor  
of Nova Scotia.*

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
2d January 1855.

SIR,

The Attorney-General of Nova-Scotia, Mr Young, having acquainted me of your having accepted an invitation that has been made to you by some friends in England to offer yourself as a candidate for a professorship of Natural History; I can assure you that you have my best wishes on the occasion, and I hope your efforts may meet with the success which your abilities well deserve; for I am confident, from your conduct during the three years you filled the office of Superintendent of Education

in this province, you will gain additional credit in the new sphere of duties which this new appointment, should you be successful in obtaining it, may open for you.—I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

J. GASPARD LE MARCHANT.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

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*From the Hon. JOSEPH HOWE, late Provincial Secretary of the Province of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,  
28th Dec. 1854.

John William Dawson, Esq., has been long known to me, and has ever been and is now highly esteemed for his gentle manners, sterling integrity, and varied information.

Mr Dawson for several years held the office of Superintendent of Education under the Government of which I was a member. In that capacity he visited the Schools of New England and New York, and lectured upon Education and Agricultural Chemistry in the chief towns of this province.

Mr Dawson's resignation of his place was reluctantly accepted by the Government, whose confidence and respect he still retains.

Mr Dawson's acquaintance with Geology and Natural History is extensive. His style, as a lecturer, is remarkably attractive, from its accuracy and precision.

JOSEPH HOWE, CHAIRMAN OF THE RAILWAY BOARD,  
late Provincial Secretary.

From Rev. A. FORRESTER, *Presbyterian Minister and Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, December 4, 1854.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the high attainments of Mr Dawson in various branches of Natural History.

Though I had often heard of the geological researches of Mr Dawson in these provinces, and his contributions to the Geological Society of London, I made his acquaintance only five years ago, on occasion of his delivering a course of lectures on Natural History, in Dalhousie College, Halifax. These lectures were given at the request of the governors of that institution, were largely attended, and highly appreciated. Since then I have enjoyed much friendly intercourse with him, and repeatedly heard him lecture here before the Mechanics' Institute, and also at the late Provincial Industrial Exhibition; and am more and more firmly persuaded that Mr D. is not only a complete enthusiast in Natural History, but possessed of extensive attainments in all its departments, especially in Mineralogy and Geology, both theoretical and practical, as well as a great aptitude in communicating his stores of knowledge to others.

I know something of the diversified qualifications necessary for the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, and have no hesitation in saying that should Mr Dawson be chosen to occupy that honourable position, he will not only do credit to the University, but advance largely the general interests of science.

ALEXR. FORRESTER.

*From* W. E. LOGAN, Esq., F.G.S., *Provincial Geologist for Canada.*

MONTREAL, 17th February 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—It would give me great satisfaction and pleasure to hear of your success as a Candidate for the Natural History Chair in the University of Edinburgh, as, in addition to your general fitness to discharge the duties of the position with credit to the University, you would carry to the other side of the Atlantic a detailed and extensive knowledge of the advance that has been made in the various branches of Natural History on this. In the branch with which my investigations are more particularly connected, you have yourself been a diligent worker, and Nova Scotia stands greatly indebted to you for your valuable and interesting contributions to her geology. The whole subject of American geology is one of rapidly increasing importance, and your intimate acquaintance with it, could not fail to bring a multitude of striking facts from the new world to illustrate and confirm the oft-repeated truths of the old, and perhaps occasionally to correct some of its errors.

Although so much has been done within the last twenty years to portray American geology, and its features stand out in such gigantic proportions, a correct knowledge of its aspect scarcely yet prevails in Europe; and any one who could instil into the minds of the rising generation a true comparison between the two continents, would confer a great benefit on both, and materially advance Geological Science. Repeating my wishes for your success, I remain, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

W. E. LOGAN.

J. W. Dawson, Esq.

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*From* HENRY POOLE, Esq., *late Manager of the Albion Coal Mines.*

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE,  
20th January, 1855.

MY DEAR SIR,—As you inform me that you have offered yourself as a Candidate for the vacant Professorship of Natural History in Edinburgh University, I have much pleasure

in certifying that you executed several series of Assays of the Albion Coal Seams in Nova Scotia, at my request, for the "General Mining Association;" and the correctness of which were confirmed by subsequent trials made by other chemists and practical men. I can also testify that you have obtained a well-merited reputation in the British North American provinces as a popular lecturer on Natural History and educational subjects, and that the works which you have from time to time published on those subjects have been favourably received and generally read.

Having had the pleasure of your acquaintance during thirteen years, I can also distinctly speak of the high estimation in which your character is held by all classes, and for the upright and courteous manner in which you have conducted yourself towards all parties with whom you have had any intercourse.—I remain, my dear Sir, yours truly.

HENRY POOLE.

J. W. Dawson, Esq., Pictou.

*From* RICHARD BROWN, Esq., *Cape Breton, to Sir C. Lyell.*

SYDNEY MINES, CAPE BRETON,  
January 1, 1855

MY DEAR SIR CHARLES,—I have just learned from Mr Dawson, of Pictou, that he is a candidate for the Chair at Edinburgh, vacant by the lamented death of Professor Forbes.

I have known Mr Dawson many years, and have no hesitation in stating that he is a most exemplary young man in every relation of life. With respect to his Geological attainments, no one can speak better to the purpose than yourself. He has been employed by the Provincial Government, and at various times by the General Mining Association, in making Geological Explorations, Assays, &c., which he has invariably conducted with most praiseworthy zeal and intelligence.

I cannot but regret his departure from this province, but at the same time shall rejoice to hear of his succeeding in obtaining so honourable a position as the one he is now looking for. If you think my humble testimony will be of any service to him, pray make use of it as you think best, and believe me always, very respectfully, yours,

RICHD. BROWN.

Sir Charles Lyell.



From W. J. ANDERSON, Esq., *Secretary of the Pictou Academy.*

PICTOU, December 27, 1854.

These certify that at the request of the Trustees of Pictou Academy, Mr J. W. Dawson, during the Session of 1848-9, delivered a course of thirty-two lectures on Natural History, in the Academy.

The lectures were attended to their close, with increasing interest, by many inhabitants of the town, as well as by pupils attending other classes in the Academy, who, at the termination of the course, testified their high gratification by unanimously passing a vote of thanks to Mr Dawson.

WM. JAS. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary, Pictou Academy.*

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*Statement in reference to Mr Dawson's Scientific Training, Published Papers, Lectures, &c.*

After completing studies in Classics, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy, in Pictou Academy, Nova Scotia, taking lessons in Drawing and Taxidermy, and spending some time in collecting specimens in Natural History, visited Edinburgh at the age of 21 years, and attended the lectures of Professor Jameson throughout the winter of 1840-41, and have his certificate for very regular attendance. Occupied the whole of the winter in studying books and specimens in Natural History, and especially Geology and Mineralogy, and in exploring the Geology in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

1841. On returning to Nova Scotia, contributed to Wernerian Society of Edinburgh a paper on *Meriones Labradoricus* and a species of *Arvicola*, and sent preserved specimens of these and other animals to Professor Jameson; also specimens of the rocks of Nova Scotia.
1842. Accompanied Sir Charles Lyell in his tour in Nova Scotia, and assisted him, as acknowledged in his *Travels in North America*.
1843. Paper on Lower Carboniferous or Gypsiferous Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, six woodcuts.—*Proceedings of Geological Society of London*.
1844. Paper on the Upper or Newer Coal Formation of Nova Scotia, pp. 8, four woodcuts and quarto map.—*Ibid.*
1846. Notice of some Fossils found in Nova Scotia, and remarks on true nature of *Sternbergia* or *Artisia*, pp. 4, and figures.



- Reports to General Mining Association and C. D. Archibald, Esq., on the Iron deposits of the Cobequid Mts.
- Papers on the Gypsum of Nova Scotia, and on the Boulder Formation of that Province, contributed to Royal Society of Edinburgh, and printed in abstract in their proceedings.
- In autumn of 1846, revisited Scotland and studied Chemical Analysis in Laboratory of Edinburgh University; also the art of preparing slices of fossil wood for the Microscope, use of the Blowpipe, &c.
- Paper on Destruction and Reproduction of Forests in North America, in *Ed. Philosophical Journal*.
1847. Letter to Secretary of Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, in answer to enquiries respecting origin of Gypsum of Nova Scotia, published in their Proceedings. Elected a corresponding member of the Academy.
- Paper on New Red Sandstone of Nova Scotia, pp. 9, quarto map and sections. *Proc. Geol. Society*.
1848. Paper on the colouring matter of Red Sandstones and the white beds associated with them, pp. 6.—*Proc. Geol. Society*.
- Paper on Gypsum of Plaister Cove, Cape Breton, pp. 5, three woodcuts.—*Ibid*.
- Paper on the Wheat Midge (*Cecidomyia Tritici*).—*Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil.*
- Report on Geological Survey of Coal Fields of Southern Cape Breton.—*Journals of Legislature of Nova Scotia*.
- Handbook of the Geography and Natural History of Nova Scotia, pp. 95, and map.
- Delivered a Course of 32 Lectures on Natural History in Pictou Academy, to students and others.
1849. Paper on the Metamorphic Rocks of Nova Scotia, pp. 17, four woodcuts.—*Proc. Geol. Soc.*
- Paper on Erect Calamites in the Coal-Formation near Pictou, pp. 3, three woodcuts.—*Ibid*.
- Reported on Iron Veins of Great Village River for Acadia Mining Company.
- Executed a series of Assays of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
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1850. Appointed Superintendent of Education; visited schools in New England and New York, and reported on their systems of instruction.
- Delivered Public Lectures throughout Nova Scotia on Education and Agricultural Chemistry, and gave Instructions and Lectures to Teachers' Institutes.
- First Report on Schools of Nova Scotia, pp. 127.
1851. Second Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—Lectured, &c., as above, and collected information and specimens relating to the Natural History of Nova Scotia.
1852. Third Report on Schools of Nova Scotia.—*Scientific Contributions towards the Improvement of Agriculture in Nova Scotia*, pp. 100.

- Paper on Nature and Causes of Potato Blight—in Massachusetts Agricultural Transactions, pp. 10.
- Supplementary Paper on New Red Sandstone.—Proc. Geol. Soc., pp. 3, two woodcuts.
- Examined section of South Joggins in company with Sir Charles Lyell.
- Joint Paper with Sir Charles Lyell on remains of a Reptile and Land Shell found at South Joggins.—Proc. Geol. Soc.
- Paper on the Albert Mine, Hillsborough, New Brunswick, pp. 8, seven woodcuts.—*Ibid.*
- Resigned Office of Superintendent of Education.
- 853.—Paper on Coal Measures of South Joggins, pp. 41, twenty-five woodcuts.—*Ibid.*
- Joint Paper with Mr Poole on Albion Mines.—*Ibid.*
- Assayed and Reported on thirty-three samples of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
- Hints to the Farmers of Nova Scotia on Live Stock and General Husbandry, prepared for the Government of Nova Scotia, pp. 148.
- Appointed one of the Directors of the Provincial Normal School, Nova Scotia.
1854. Paper on the Discovery of a New Carboniferous Reptile (*Baphetes Planiceps*—Owen.)—Com. to Geol. Soc.
- Acted with Dr Ryerson and other gentlemen on commission on King's College, Frederickton, by appointment of Sir E. W. Head.
- Elected Fellow of Geological Society, London.
- Issued prospectus of a work of 300 pages on the Geology of Nova Scotia and neighbouring Colonies, now passing through the Edinburgh press under the superintendence of Messrs Oliver and Boyd.

February 1855.

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- Paper on nature and causes of Potatoe Blight—in *Massachusetts Agricultural Transactions*, pp. 16.
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- Paper on the Albert Mine, Hillsborough, New Brunswick, pp. 8, 7 wood-cuts.—*Ibid*.
- Resigned office of Superintendent of Education.
1853. Paper on Coal Measures of South Joggins, pp. 41, 25 wood-cuts.—*Ibid*.
- Joint Paper with Mr Poole on Albion Mines.—*Ibid*.
- Assayed and Reported on 33 samples of Albion Coal for General Mining Association.
- Hints to the Farmers of Nova Scotia on Live Stock and General Husbandry, prepared for the Government of Nova Scotia, pp. 148.
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Pictou, N. Scotia,  
 Jan'y 2, 1835.

*W. Dawson*

From the "Scottish Press" - Friday, July 1855.

THE NATURAL HISTORY CHAIR

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Since the lamented death of Professor Edward Forbes, we have not interfered with the question of a successor to him, beyond stating the objections which we thought the public would and ought to feel to the appointment of M. Agassiz, eminent as he undoubtedly is as a man of science, and the claims preferred by Mr. Dawson of Pictou, Nova Scotia, as a geologist of high and rising celebrity, and with no mean knowledge of zoology -- the branches, a competent knowledge of which is requisite to enable any one to fill with advantage the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. From the moment it became known that it was hopeless to propose Agassiz, a good many little coteries, we will not say factions, have been busy, whisperings and consulting and communicating with everybody who was supposed to have influence in the appointment. It would be more amusing than edifying were we to rehearse the gossip that is afloat of round-robins signed on behalf of eminence on crutches here, and of Mr. So-and-so, "who has been too long kept back," there, -- and Sir George Grey, the Duke of Argyll, and the Lord Advocate have had their names freely quoted and handled about, with the same mysterious and suggestive winks and shrugs and pokes of the elbow wherewith the knowing ones hint the favourites and the state of the odds at the betting houses the night before the Derby. On ourselves was bestowed the comforting assurance that, succeed who might, Mr. Dawson had no chance, and by-and-by some great light would be proposed to eclipse all lesser luminaries.

We knew, however, the man whose claims on public grounds we had ventured to urge, and although aware that a distant colonist must necessarily suffer, when pitted against candidates who are on the spot and who had each his circle of supporters around him, we were content to allow matters to take their course. When Mr. Dawson's testimonials appeared, a wonderful revolution in public

sentiment took place -- the man who was nobody was found to be a co-operator with, and friend of, some of the most eminent savans in Britain; and two of them, the late lamented Sir Henry de la Beche, and still more Sir Charles Lyell, whose noble and disinterested friendship stamps him as a man as good as he is distinguished, came forward to testify the very high opinion they entertained of Mr. Dawson's merits. Evidences crowded upon us, and some of the stray sheets recently found their way into circulation of Mr. Dawson's work, "Acadian Geology," -- which has just issued from the press of Messrs. Oliver and Boyd, of Edinburgh; and the "young naturalist," as the author describes himself, "labouring in a comparatively remote and isolated position," came into repute "in the great literary centre of the Anglo-Saxon world." Meanwhile, perhaps, Sir George Grey and his coadjutors had found a moment's leisure to glance at the noble appeal made by Joseph Howe, the colonial Prime Minister, in the legislature of Nova Scotia -- the country of Mr. Dawson -- in which, claiming for British colonists the rights of citizenship, and contrasting the rewards which the American Republic offers her sons with those of British America, he says, "I yield to no man in respect for the flag of my fathers, but I will live under no flag with a brand of inferiority to the other British races stamped upon my brow." All these were needed to give Mr. Dawson fair play -- for when it was found vain to attempt to neutralise the testimony of Sir Charles Lyell in his favour, by representing a most independent thinker to be a slavish follower of the learned knight, a cry was raised that Mr. Dawson was a mere colonist, and it would be a slight on British talent to cross the Atlantic for one to fill the chair in a Scottish university, a cry that was not once heard so long as Agassiz was the coming man.

The Government seemed non-plussed, but the community, as well they might, was getting impatient, and at the last meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council, the Lord Provost and Baillie Morrison were commissioned to proceed to London to press the question

to an issue. And accordingly the Court Gazette tells us that, accompanied by the city members, Mr. Macaulay and Mr. Cowan, they met the Home Secretary (Sir George Grey), and the Lord Advocate on Tuesday. It was now found that Mr. Dawson, the unknown Nova Scotian, was not a distanced competitor -- on the contrary, had it not happened that Sir Roderick Murchison had been induced to take Professor Nichol of Aberdeen by the hand, and to urge his claims with that authority which this eminent naturalist possesses with the Government, Mr. Dawson would have received the appointment. But mark the way in which men in office "split a difference;" Sir George Grey could not afford to offend Sir Charles Lyell, who demanded the office for Mr. Dawson -- "the right man in the right place" -- or Sir Roderick Murchison, who demanded it for Professor Nichol -- and so he resolved, it is said, to give it to neither, but to Dr. Allman of Dublin -- this last agreeing, which we suppose the others would not have agreed -- should the Chair be afterwards divided, and separate professorships of Zoology and Geology appointed -- to confine himself to the former, leaving the latter vacant. It is understood the appointment will be made immediately.

Were it not for the important interests involved, one could scarce help being amused with the issue of this important arrangement. It was objected -- it was the only objection -- to Mr. Dawson that he is a Geologist, and not a Zoologist -- a statement by no means borne out by the fact. But let that pass. Who is preferred to him? The Dublin Professor of Botany. A man whose profession relates to the structure of trees and plants is supposed to understand comparative anatomy better than a Professor of Geology, whose testimonials speak to his competent knowledge of Zoology! We do not know if it be too late, but we trust Sir George Grey will more truly consult the interests of the University -- and we say this, while we by no means withhold our meed of respect for the attainments of Dr. Allman.



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 Dawson -- "the right man in the right place" -- or Sir Robert  
 Kirkpatrick, who demanded it for Professor Nichol -- and so he  
 resolved, as he said, to give it to neither, but to Mr. Allan  
 of Dublin -- this last objection, which we suppose the others  
 would not have raised -- showed that the office was divided  
 and certain propositions of biology and geology presented --  
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