



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

George Lawson, Professor of Chemistry, 1863-1895: born at Newport, parish of Forgan, Fifeshire, Scotland, 12th October, 1827; 1848 *circa*, entered Edinburgh University; 1853-57, demonstrator of Botany and Zoology, Edinburgh University; Secretary of Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh; 1857-58, interim lecturer on Natural Science, New College, Edinburgh; 1850 or '51, married Lucy, daughter of Charles

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DALHOUSIE GAZETTE.

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Stapley, Tunbridge Wells; 1857, Ph.D., Giessen; 1858, professor of Chemistry and Natural History, Queen's University, Kingston; 1863, LL. D., McGill; 1864-85, Secretary Department of Agriculture, Nova Scotia; 1876, married Caroline, daughter of William Jordan, Halifax, and widow of the late G. A. Knox; 1882, original Fellow Royal Society of Canada; 1887, President Royal Society of Canada; 1891, Founder and President of Botanical Society, Canada; at different times made Fellow of Botanical and Royal Physical Societies, Edinburgh, Institute of Chemistry, Great Britain; member of Edinburgh Geological and Scottish Arboricultural Societies; Royal Horticultural Society, London; Society Natural Sciences, Cherbourg, British and American Associations for Advancement of Science, Royal Scottish Society of Arts, Nova Scotia Institute of Science, and associate of Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. Died 10th November, 1895. Publications: The Royal Water Lily of South America, etc., 1849; Catalogue of the Library of Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1857; Botanical Descriptions accompanying Mrs. Miller's drawings of Wild Flowers of Nova Scotia; On First Principles of Chemistry, etc., 1887; The Fern Flora of Canada, 1889; 49 Reports on Agriculture, etc.; 99 papers, addresses, etc., in various scientific journals. (DALHOUSIE GAZETTE, Nov. 22nd, 1895; Proceedings Royal Society, Canada, 1896; Cyclopaedia of Canadian Biography, 1888; unpublished Bibliography, Dalhousie College.)

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OBITUARY NOTICE

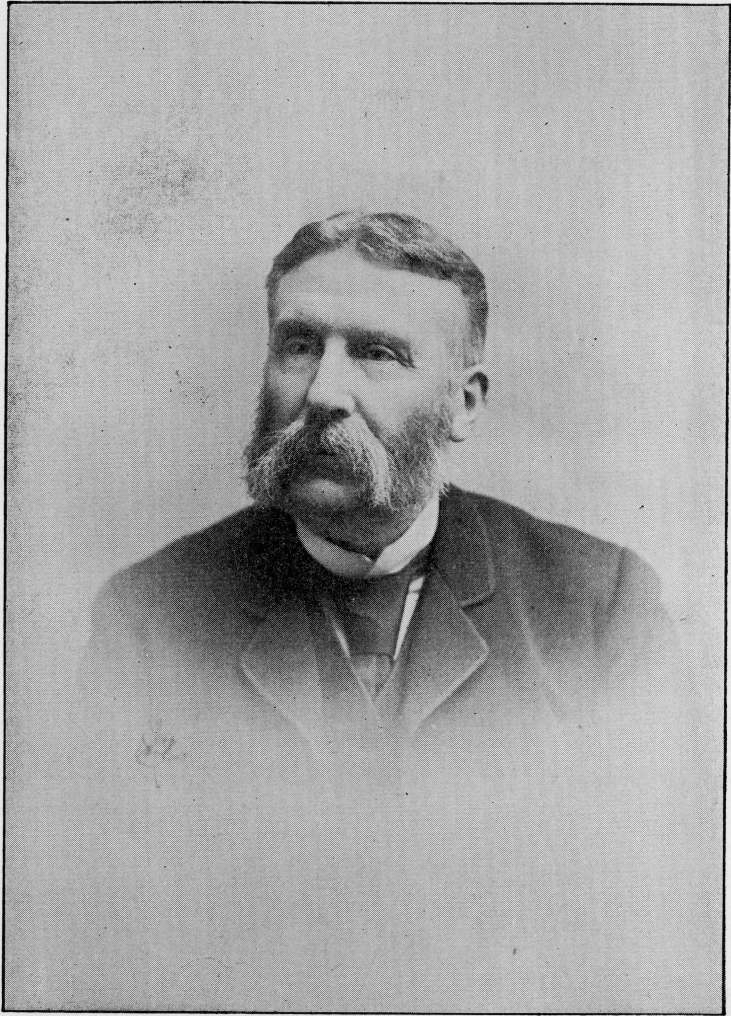
—OF—

THE LATE PROF. GEORGE LAWSON,

Ph. D., LL. D., F. I. C., F. R. S. C.

*From the Proceedings of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science,
Vol. IX, Session 1895-96.*





George A. W. Smith

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Nova Scotian Institute of Science.

SESSION OF 1895-6.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING.

Legislative Council Chamber, Halifax, 11th November, 1895.

The first VICE-PRESIDENT, ALEXANDER MCKAY, Esq., in the chair.

On opening the meeting the chairman announced to the Institute the sudden death of its late President, PROF. GEORGE LAWSON, Ph. D., LL. D., which had occurred on the previous evening at his residence in Halifax.

After reference had been made by the chairman and other members of the Institute to the great loss which the Institute had sustained, it was unanimously resolved that the Institute, as a body, should attend the funeral of its late President.

It was further unanimously resolved that, as a mark of respect to the late President, the Annual Meeting should be adjourned until the 18th of November.

Legislative Council Chamber, Halifax, 18th November, 1895.

ALEXANDER MCKAY, Esq., VICE-PRESIDENT, in the chair.

PROF. J. G. MACGREGOR, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY, addressed the Institute as follows :

Mr. Vice-President,—It is my duty, on this occasion, to bring before the Institute some account of the life and work of members deceased

during the past year. Until the last evening prior to the date fixed for the annual meeting, we could say that death had made no diminution in our list of members. But, on that evening, we lost one who was *facile princeps* among us—our late President, Prof. George Lawson.

Prof. Lawson was born on the 12th October, 1827, at Newport, Fifeshire, in Scotland. He was the son of Alexander Lawson and belonged to a family which had long resided in Fifeshire. After completing his school education, he entered upon the study of law; but his strong natural taste for scientific work led him to abandon a legal career, and to enter the University of Edinburgh with the object of studying the natural and physical sciences. His studies in Edinburgh extended over a period of ten years, during which time he was also occupied with scientific and literary work in connection with the University and with several of the scientific institutions of that city. He was for a time Curator of the University Herbarium, and was thus brought into either personal contact or correspondence with the leading botanists of the time. He was also for some time Demonstrator of Botany under Professor J. H. Balfour; and, in that capacity, he conducted a select class for advanced students, teaching the practical use of the microscope and methods of research in regard to the minute structure and development of plants. The class was one of the first of the kind conducted in Great Britain. The preparation of the Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Society of Edinburgh was entrusted to him at this time, and was carried out to the great satisfaction of the Society. He acted also as secretary of several societies, in particular of the Royal Physical Society, in which office he had as colleague the late Sir Wyville Thomson, afterwards Chief of the Scientific Staff of the *Challenger* expedition.

In the year 1858 he was appointed to the Professorship of Chemistry and Natural History in Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and, to the great regret of the leading scientific men in Edinburgh, evidenced by their presenting him with an address, a silver salver and a purse of sovereigns, he accepted the appointment.

In 1863, on the reorganization of Dalhousie College in this city, Dr. Lawson resigned his chair at Queen's College and accepted the Professorship of Chemistry and Mineralogy here. From that date until the present—for a period of thirty-two years—he has conducted the chemical department in this college. In addition to the work of his chair, he also for many years conducted a class in Botany.

During his residence in Halifax he was always ready to give assistance to struggling educational institutions. For years he delivered courses of lectures in Chemistry and Botany to the students of the Halifax Medical College. He was one of the organizers of the Technological Institute ; and when that useful evening school ceased to exist through lack of funds, he conducted for some years, and intended to conduct periodically, an evening class in theoretical and practical chemistry, especially for men engaged in chemical industries.

Soon after his coming to Nova Scotia, a Board of Agriculture was established by the government, and his previous profound study of British agriculture led to his appointment to the secretaryship of the Board. He discharged the duties of this office from 1864 to 1885, when the functions of the Board were assumed directly by the government, and he was appointed Secretary for Agriculture. His connection with agriculture was rendered still more intimate from the fact that he for many years himself conducted a farm, largely, I believe, a stock farm, at Sackville, N. S. Whether intended to be so or not, it was generally regarded as a model of what such a farm ought to be.

Shortly after his appointment to the Professorship in Dalhousie College, Prof. Lawson became a member of this Institute, and he soon became one of our most active members. He attended our meetings with the greatest regularity, and was always ready to give freely of his time and energy with the object of promoting the interests of the Society. His executive ability was early recognized, and he was elected a member of the Council in 1864. Since that date there have been but five years in which he was not so selected. He was Vice-President on nine occasions, and has held the office of President during the last two years.

During his membership he communicated in all fifteen papers to the Institute, including five which are as yet unpublished, and which, I fear, have not been finally prepared for publication. These papers are, for the most part, in the department of Botany, which, as our members know well, was his favorite subject. I may mention his "Monograph of the Ranunculaceæ of the Dominion of Canada," the paper "On the Laminariaceæ of the Dominion," the "Monograph of the Ericaceæ of the Dominion," and the papers "On Canadian Species of Rubi," "On the Northern Limit of Wild Grape Vines," and "On the Canadian Species of the Genus Melilotus," as being especially important contributions to

our knowledge of the geographical distribution of plants. The Institute was the more indebted to Prof. Lawson for publishing these papers in its Transactions, because, long before coming among us, he had gained the ear of the scientific world, and the Transactions of several of the Societies of the mother-country, which formed much better means of publication than ours, were open to him. I know that previously to the last few years, he felt very keenly the serious drawbacks connected with publishing in the Transactions of the Institute. At that time the Council rigorously demanded that no paper should be published in our Transactions which had previously appeared elsewhere, while, at the same time, little effort was made to distribute our Transactions among Scientific Societies throughout the world. Of course, also, none of the larger scientific societies or magazines would publish a paper which had previously appeared here. Papers published in our Transactions were thus, to a certain extent, buried, and authors could bring them to the notice of scientific men elsewhere only by distributing separate copies. During the last few years the policy of the Council has been changed. Our Transactions are now sent to all important Scientific Societies throughout the world, and, in addition, to a very large number of Universities, Public Libraries and Museums. A paper which is published in our Transactions, therefore, has some chance of being seen. But, besides that, in several cases recently, the Council has wisely permitted the publication of papers which had been communicated to it, previously to their appearance in our Transactions, on the simple condition of their being credited to the Institute. To a man like Dr. Lawson, who had the best avenues of publication open to him, these modifications of our policy were a great relief; for they permitted him to communicate researches to the Institute and yet to feel confident that he was not thereby hiding them away. Consequently, during the last few years, he had been able to bring a larger number of papers before the Institute than formerly, and he had projected a series of valuable papers on the Flora of Nova Scotia, which were to have been communicated to us. The first of this series was read on February 9th, 1891, and appears in our Transactions at p. 84 of the eighth volume. The second was read on the 14th December, 1891; but the manuscript required revision when our issue of that year went to press, and the burden of other duties, together with failing health, had, I fear, prevented its revision altogether.

Prof. Lawson's scientific work began in 1846, when, at the early age of 19 years, he communicated a series of papers to the *Phytologist*, embodying the results of botanical observations. From that time until the present, but few years passed in which he did not make some contribution, smaller or larger, to the advancement either of his favorite subject of Botany or some allied subject. Before coming to Canada, as already stated, he had made a distinct reputation as a botanist, having published in this department of science forty-four papers and one book, and having prepared the manuscript of a second book, which, however, through the death of one of the members of the firm which had undertaken to issue it, was never published. In addition, he had published a few papers in other departments of natural science, a work on British agriculture, and the Catalogue of the Royal Society's Library, and he had for two years issued a monthly serial containing treatises on the field crops of Britain.

During his five years residence at Kingston his scientific activity was unabated, notwithstanding the large amount of work which fell to his hands in organizing the science teaching of Queen's College. To this period belong thirteen botanical papers, one chemical paper, and one agricultural pamphlet. In this period also falls the organization of the Botanical Society of Canada, which he was largely instrumental in founding, and which, in the few years of its active existence, did good work in promoting the study of botany in Canada.

During his residence in Halifax, Prof. Lawson published thirty-one botanical papers, four on chemical subjects and one in zoology. In addition he issued the *Journal of Agriculture* for twelve years, the annual reports of the Secretary of Agriculture for thirty years, the crop reports of Nova Scotia for six years, a special report on cattle pastures, and the Nova Scotia register of thoroughbred cattle. It will be noticed that the amount of his scientific work, so far as it can be judged by mere number of papers, was smaller during the last period than in either of the others. This was of course due to the heavy demands which his duties as Secretary of Agriculture made upon his time. In the interest of pure science, therefore, his appointment to this office is to be regretted. But if we take a wider view, and consider the great services which, as Secretary, he rendered to the farming industry, it may be that the loss to pure science was balanced, and perhaps over-balanced, by the improvements in the applications of science which he was able to effect in Nova Scotia.

The total number of his communications to scientific societies, each of which represents some addition to knowledge, is as follows:—In Botany, 93 ; in Zoology, 4 ; in Chemistry, 5 ; and in subjects difficult to classify, 5. These, in themselves, form a far larger body of work than it is the privilege of most scientific men to have been able to execute ; and when one thinks in addition of the work involved in the long series of reports, treatises, etc., of a practical kind which his pen produced, and of the articles in reviews and other periodicals and in cyclopedias, of which no mention has been made above, one begins to form some estimate of the enormous industry, patience, perseverance, and minute attention to detail, of which our late professor was capable.

A complete list of his published papers, as well as of his books, reports, etc., up to the end of 1894, will be found in the "Bibliography of the members of the Royal Society of Canada," compiled by Dr. J. G. Bourinot, and issued as part of Vol. XII of the Transactions of that Society. A list of the papers communicated to the Institute during the last four years, including six which do not appear in the Royal Society's list, will be found in the Index to Vol. VIII of our Transactions.

As to the value of his scientific work, it would be presumptuous in me to offer an opinion. He, doubtless, reached no wide generalizations. It is given to few men to do so. But he added greatly to our knowledge of plant life, and made especially large contributions to our knowledge of the geographical distribution of plants. Whether or not he possessed the ability to do what is called, in German phrase, epoch-making work, it is impossible to say ; for his lot was cast in circumstances in which such work was practically impossible. But, although he was unable to pursue his investigations with the appliances and by the methods which he would have selected, had the colleges with which he was connected possessed adequate equipment, he nevertheless resolutely did what he could ; and he has, consequently, left behind him a mass of useful work accomplished, which forms a *monumentum aere perennius*.

Of the value of his work as Secretary of Agriculture, it is difficult to form any estimate. It consisted not so much in the excellence of the Reports which it was his duty to issue from time to time,—though they were models of conscientious skill,—or in the judiciousness of his official communications with the Agricultural Societies of the Province,—though there is no doubt as to the ability with which these communications were conducted,—as in the quiet influence which he exerted over the

farmers of Nova Scotia, an influence which was due to a firm conviction on their part that he had their interests at heart and that he possessed a profound knowledge on which his advice to them was based. He had given great attention to agriculture, as we have seen, before coming to Canada ; and, though farming is carried on under very different conditions in Great Britain and Canada, he had the rare faculty of allowing for the difference of conditions, and applying his general knowledge accurately in new circumstances, and rapidly gaining an insight into the modifications which our climate, the undeveloped state of our country, and our mode of life, made necessary. It is certain, at any rate, whether this view of its source is correct or not, that he exerted a great influence over our farming population, and that his exercise of that influence was in the highest degree beneficent.

The outward marks which show the esteem in which scientific work is held by scientific men, are received only in small measure by the retiring worker who lives far from the centres of research. Nevertheless, Dr. Lawson was not without such cheering evidence of appreciation. The degree of Ph. D. was conferred upon him by the University of Giessen, and that of LL. D. by McGill University, Montreal. He was a Fellow of the Botanical Society and of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh, and of the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain, an Honorary Member of the Edinburgh Geological and of the Scottish Arboricultural Societies, a Corresponding Member of the Royal Horticultural Society of London, and of the Society of Natural Science of Cherbourg, one of the original Fellows and an ex-President of the Royal Society of Canada, and a member of various other learned societies.

The indirect influence which Dr. Lawson exerted on the progress of science in Canada was also very great. Many of the members of this Institute are old pupils of his, and can testify to the stimulating power which he could exert and did exert in the presentation of his subject. I was assured some few years ago by one of the leading botanists of Canada, that all the leading Canadian botanists of that date, who had been trained in Canada, were Dr. Lawson's pupils ; and such a fact speaks volumes for the ability of their teacher. His power of rousing enthusiasm in his pupils was more marked in his teaching of Botany than in his teaching of Chemistry ; for, though the latter was the principal subject of the Professorships which he held, the former

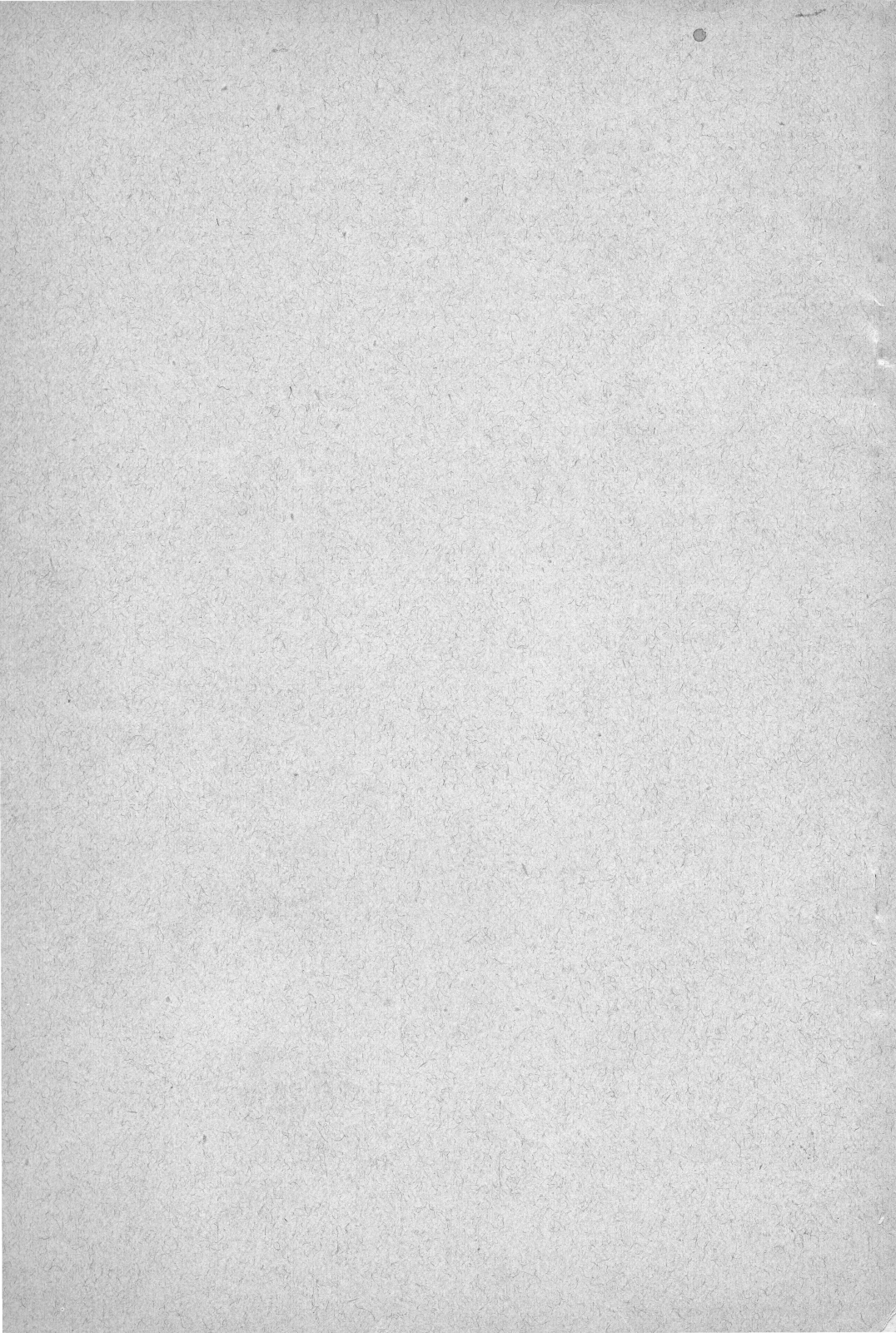
was the subject in which he delighted. It was, perhaps, also more marked in former than in later years, the burden of the many duties which, owing to his thorough knowledge of Agriculture, had been forced upon him, having been too great, apparently, for his intellectual elasticity. But that the power was there in great measure, there can be no doubt, and that it was exercised even in later years is shown by the fact that we have had botanical communications recently from pupils of his who have only lately left the class-room.

The indirect influence which is shown in kindly interest and considerate criticism, is familiar to all our younger members, who have been endeavoring themselves to engage in research, or who have brought the results of their research before the Institute. We well know that he was always interested even in the smallest of our contributions; that when he directed our attention to faults which might be removed, it was always in the gentlest manner and with the utmost courtesy and consideration for the feelings of others; and we know also, that in any of the many subjects with which he was familiar, he was always ready to draw from his store of information, for our benefit, things either new or old. His readiness at all times to work for this Institute, his labours in connection with the Botanical Society of Canada, the interest he took in the recently founded Botanical Club, his willingness to contribute to the maintenance even of local scientific societies in distant parts of the Dominion, were simply instances of the very large indirect influence which he exerted on the progress of science in Canada.

This short statement can give but a feeble account of the great work which our late President was able to accomplish in the advancement of Science, the upbuilding of this Institute, and the development of of his adopted country. It may serve, however, to show that through Dr. Lawson's death, the Province of Nova Scotia loses a man who, owing to his profound knowledge and his public spirit, was able to exert a large influence on the development of its most important industry; the Institute loses a member who, through his activity and success in research, has been largely instrumental in making the reputation which it now possesses in the estimation of similar societies in other parts of the world, and we all, personally, lose a friend who, through his kindly courtesy and readiness to help, had won our deep affection and profound esteem.

On motion of DR. SOMERS, seconded by DR. MURPHY, it was unanimously resolved that the Secretary be directed to transmit to the family of its late President, PROF. G. LAWSON, an expression of the Institute's deep sense of the great value of his scientific labours and of the eminent service which he had rendered to the Province of Nova Scotia, together with an assurance of the very warm sympathy felt by the Institute with his family in their sad bereavement.

It was further resolved that the Corresponding Secretary's account of the Life and Work of the late President should be published in the Proceedings, and that it should be accompanied by a portrait.



INAUGURAL LECTURE

Delivered at the Opening of the Third Summer Session

OF THE

MEDICAL FACULTY

OF DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N. S.,
APRIL 11, 1870,

By GEORGE LAWSON, Ph. D., LL.D., Professor of Chemistry.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

Medicine is a liberal profession, requiring culture and knowledge and skill, and, withal, a spirit of Christian charity. It is not a trade for money making; it is not a field for vaulting ambition. The physician has to become the servant of the suffering; he has to go down among the fetid haunts of disease and death, and spend his days and nights, and risk his health and life, in relieving affliction and distress in a thousand forms, and chiefly among the sick poor, who are the poorest of the poor. It therefore becomes the duty of every young man who desires to enter upon the study of medicine to examine himself, and search his conscience, and try his fortitude, that he may know whether he has the mental power, the moral rectitude, the industry, the self-control and self-denial, the manual dexterity, and the general physical vitality, required in this most arduous of all the professions.

We applaud the successful statesman when he carries out a measure for his country's good; we cheer the soldier on to victory; we give public thanks to the donor of a thousand pounds to a charity. Let us reflect that it is a solemn act for our young men come forward, in the bloom of youth, to dedicate their lives to this peculiar work of healing the sick. All honour to them! And let not society forget the obligations—broad and deep—which it owes to the young medical student as well as to the physician old in labour and experience.

The Medical Faculty have requested me to address to you this evening a few remarks introductory to the course of study

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CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

George Lawson, comp

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOR OF

GEORGE LAWSON, LL. D.

FORMERLY DEMONSTRATOR OF BOTANY AND HISTOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY
OF EDINBURGH, AND INTERIM LECTURER ON NATURAL SCIENCE IN THE
NEW COLLEGE, EDINBURGH; AFTERWARDS PROFESSOR OF NATURAL
HISTORY AND CHEMISTRY IN QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON;
AND PRESENTLY PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY AND NATURAL
SCIENCE, IN DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

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1874.

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TESTIMONIALS

BY

GEORGE LAWSON BRIDGES

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS
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CHAIR OF NATURAL HISTORY,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

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SCIENCE, IN DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY,
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX:
NOVA SCOTIA PRINTING COMPANY,
1874.

To the Hon. Christopher F. Fraser, Provincial Secretary of the Province of Ontario, Toronto.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, }
Halifax, Nova Scotia, April 25th, 1874. }

SIR,—I beg leave respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Natural History in University College, Toronto, which, I am informed, has become vacant by the resignation of Professor Nicholson. In support of my application, I submit herewith a series of Testimonials, in which eminent scientific men and others well qualified to judge, and to whom I have been personally well known, have expressed their opinions of my qualifications.

I may be permitted to add that in early life I devoted many years to specially qualifying myself as a Teacher of Natural Science. I acted as Demonstrator of Botany and Histology in the Edinburgh University for several years, and as Interim Lecturer on Natural Science in the New College of Edinburgh during Session 1857-8. In the autumn of 1858 I accepted the Professorship of Natural History in the Arts, and of Chemistry in the Medical, Department of Queen's College and University, Kingston, Ontario. During my residence at Kingston I occasionally acted as Examiner in Zoology and Botany at the University of Toronto. In 1863 I resigned the position at Kingston, and accepted my present Professorship in Dalhousie College and University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. I am now 47 years of age.

Should the Government be pleased to select me for appointment to the vacant office in University College, I shall address myself with zeal and diligence to the faithful discharge of its duties. In the future, as in the past, whatever knowledge and industry I may be possessed of will be faithfully devoted to the advancement of my Students and the promotion of the general interests of the College with which I may be connected.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

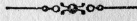
GEORGE LAWSON, LL. D.

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TESTIMONIALS.



From the HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY of the Province of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, 27th April, 1874.

Dr. George Lawson, having been for several years actively engaged in scientific and literary pursuits in Halifax, has become well and favorably known to the Members of the Legislature.

His high attainments in Natural Science are well known; and his exhaustive Lectures on Botany, Chemistry, and kindred subjects, have been thoroughly appreciated in Nova Scotia.

As a Lecturer in the branches indicated he is clear, concise and most instructive and, we believe, eminently adapted to fill the Chair of Natural History in any University or other academical institution.

J. C. TROOP, <i>Speaker, House of Assembly, N. S.</i>	HENRY W. SMITH, <i>Atty. General.</i>
WM. B. VAIL, <i>Provincial Secretary.</i>	ALONZO J. WHITE, <i>Com. Cr. Lands.</i>
A. S. HUNT, <i>Supt. Education.</i>	D. MACDONALD, <i>Com. of Mines.</i>
JAS. EISENHAUR, M.P.P.	THOMAS B. SMITH, M.P.P.
THOMAS F. MORRISON, M.P.P.	D. B. WOODWORTH, M.P.P.
D. G. CAMPBELL, M.P.P.	D. MCCURDY, M.P.P.
WM. H. WYLDE, M.P.P.	H. BLANCHARD, M.P.P.
M. McRAE, M.P.P.	SAMUEL RETTIE, M.P.P.
CHARLES BOUDROT, M.P.P.	A. GAYTON, M.P.P.
URBAIN DOUCETTE, M.P.P.	JOHN FERGUSON M.E.C.
ROBERT ROBERTSON, M.P.P.	JOHN ROSS, M.P.P.
HENRY L. YEOMANS, M.P.P.	DANIEL MOORE, M.P.P.
S. H. HOLMES, M.P.P.	E. VICKERY, M.P.P.
D. C. LANDERS, M.P.P.	HUGH J. CAMERON, M.P.P.
C. M. FRANCHEVILLE, M.P.P.	J. McDONALD, M.P.P.
ALEX. MCKAY, M.P.P.	JOHN TAYLOR, M.P.P.
	THOS. JOHNSON, M.P.P.
	JOHN FLINN, M.P.P.

From the HON. STAYLEY BROWN, President of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, 23rd April, 1874.

Having been acquainted with Dr. Lawson for some years while Professor of Chemistry in Dalhousie College, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Agriculture, and Editor of its Magazine, and known him as an able and zealous instructor in his special departments of

knowledge, I have great pleasure in recommending him as a gentleman eminently qualified for the Professorship of Natural Science, for which I understand he is a candidate.

STAYLEY BROWN,
President, Legislative Council.

*From the GOVERNORS OF DALHOUSIE COLLEGE, Halifax, Nova Scotia.
The Hon. Sir William Young, Kt., Chief Justice of Nova Scotia,
Chairman.*

Dr. George Lawson was appointed Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in Dalhousie College ten years ago. The Governors have had good cause to congratulate themselves ever since on having then secured the services of so distinguished a scientific man, and so successful a teacher of youth. They now regret that he should even contemplate removing from Halifax, as it would be difficult to fill the Chair of one who occupies a first place in the esteem of every one connected with Dalhousie College, not only for efficient discharge of his regular duties, but for courtesy of manner, and for public services of various kinds.

W. YOUNG, *Chairman.*

HALIFAX, *April 24th, 1874.*

*From the PROFESSORS OF THE FACULTY OF ARTS of Dalhousie College
and University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

We, the Professors in the Faculty of Arts of Dalhousie College and University, having learned that our Colleague, Professor Lawson, intends to become a candidate for the Chair of Natural History in University College, Toronto, desire to record our opinion that he is eminently fitted for that office.

Dr. Lawson's reputation as a Naturalist stands deservedly high in the scientific world. He is distinguished alike for his knowledge of the labours of others, and for his original researches. His Herbarium, probably by far the most extensive in the Dominion, attests his diligence in the collection, and his skill in the classification of specimens while his contributions to various scientific journals furnish evidence of habits of painstaking observation, and of his power of accurate description.

It is of him, however, in his capacity of Professor that we feel ourselves specially entitled to speak. For ten years he has successfully conducted, in this University, Classes in Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Zoology. His evident command of his subject, his easy address, his lucid style, and power of apt illustration, enforced by

rapidly drawn sketches and diagrams where these tend to clearness of exposition, arrest the attention and stimulate the exertion of the Students; while his considerate treatment of every Student wins him their respect and esteem. Accordingly, during all these years the best relations have existed between Dr. Lawson and his Classes, unmarred by the slightest unpleasantness or misunderstanding. With his Students he is enthusiastically popular.

In the Senate, and in the management of all matters connected with the University, we have obtained from him invaluable aid. His wise suggestions, his courteous manners, his readiness at all times to oblige, his clear comprehension of details, and his business tact, early won our confidence and respect. Continual intercourse with him has ripened these feelings into warm personal friendship.

JAMES ROSS, D.D.,

Principal and Professor of Eth. and Pol. Econ.

CHARLES MACDONALD, M.A.,

Professor of Mathematics.

JOHN JOHNSON, M.A.,

Professor of Classics.

W. LYALL, LL.D.,

Professor of Logic and Metaphysics.

JAMES DEMILL, M.A.,

Professor of History and Rhetoric.

From the FACULTY OF MEDICINE of Dalhousie College, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

DALHOUSIE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF MEDICINE,
Halifax, N. S., April 17, 1874.

TO PROFESSOR GEORGE LAWSON :

Sir,—I am instructed by the Medical Faculty of this University to transmit to you copy of a Resolution unanimously agreed to at a Meeting held April 16th, 1874 :—

“ Moved by Dr. Slayter, seconded by Dr. Farrell, and

Resolved.:—The Medical Faculty have much pleasure in expressing their appreciation of the very efficient manner in which Professor George Lawson has occupied the Chairs of Chemistry and Botany during the seven years he has been associated with this Faculty. They also cheerfully testify to the uniform courtesy which has always marked his demeanour, and have no hesitation in expressing their belief that he is one of the most efficient and popular teachers in the various branches of Natural Science to be found on this Continent.”

I am, &c.,

H. A. GORDON, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.,

Secretary of Medical Faculty.

*From the REV. JOHN COOK, D.D., Principal of Morrin College, Quebec,
formerly Principal of Queen's College, Kingston.*

Having been Principal of Queen's College during a portion of the time that Dr. Lawson was Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in that University, I have much pleasure in testifying that there was only one opinion, and that in the highest degree favourable, of the ability and efficiency with which his Classes were conducted. His sound judgment and conciliatory manners commanded the respect and gained the affections of his students, and he excited an interest in the subjects he taught, both by his own thorough knowledge, and the simplicity and clearness with which he was able to communicate it. His resignation of his chair in Queen's was, and was felt to be, a serious loss to that Institution.

JOHN COOK, D.D.,
Principal of Morrin College.

Quebec, 17th April, 1874.

*From the SENATUS ACADEMICUS of the Queen's University, Kingston,
Ontario.*

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, KINGSTON, }
2nd November, 1863. }

Which day the Senatus met and was duly constituted.

Sederunt, The Very Reverend Principal Leitch, Professors William-
son, Mowat, Murray and Weir.

Inter alia,

The Senatus having been informed that Dr. Lawson has resigned the office of Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in this University, unanimously Resolved to record their high sense of his uniform kindness and courtesy in his intercourse with his colleagues, and of the zeal and ability with which he fulfilled the duties of his Professorship, and otherwise eminently promoted the welfare of the College.

Extracted from the Records of the Senatus by

J. B. MOWAT, *Secretary.*

April 24th, 1874.

From the VERY REV. W. SNODGRASS, Principal of the Queen's University, Kingston.

Although never officially associated with Professor Lawson, I have known him for the greater part of the time during which he has been resident in Canada, and have pleasure in expressing a very high opinion of him as a gentleman and a scholar. I am aware that while he was connected with Queen's College he had the reputation of being a most useful and successful teacher of Botany and Zoology, and both from public notices which I have seen, and information given me during repeated visits to Nova Scotia, I feel justified in believing that his reputation has been not only fully sustained, but also greatly extended by his professional connection with Dalhousie College.

W. SNODGRASS.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, KINGSTON, 24th April, 1874.

From Members of the MEDICAL FACULTY of Queen's College and University, Kingston, Ont.

KINGSTON, ONTARIO, 17th April, 1874.

We, the undersigned, having been members of the Medical Faculty of the University of Queen's College, Kingston, and members of the Senate also, while Dr. Lawson was Professor of Natural History in the Arts Department of the College, and Professor of Chemistry in the Medical Department, had excellent opportunity of judging his merits as a teacher. It affords us much pleasure to bear our testimony to his thorough efficiency and success, and to the high opinion we entertain of him as a gentleman and scholar.

We can strongly recommend Dr. Lawson as a Professor of the above branches of Science, and consider that any College will be peculiarly fortunate in securing his services.

JOHN R. DICKSON, M. D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Formerly Dean of Faculty and Professor of Surgery, Q. C.

HORATIO YATES, M. D.,
Formerly Prof. Med., Queen's University.

M. LAVELL, M. D.,
Formerly Professor Obstetrics, &c., Q. C.

FIFE FOWLER, M. D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Formerly Prof. Mat. Med.

M. SULLIVAN, M. D.,
Formerly Dem. Anatomy, Queen's University.

From the RIGHT REV. HIBBERT BINNEY, D.D., *Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.*

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, April 22nd, 1874.

Having been informed that Dr. George Lawson is a candidate for the Professorship of Natural History in the University of Toronto, I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to his reputation in this city. Unfortunately I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subjects on which he has been lecturing to be qualified to speak of his proficiency; but I can certify that having been acquainted with him for several years, I have a high opinion of his character, and that I have reason to believe him to be conscientious and diligent, and devoted to the performance of his duties. He is well spoken of as a Professor by those who have studied under his direction, and I feel sure that he will spare no pains to perform faithfully and satisfactorily whatever he may undertake.

H NOVA SCOTIA.

From the HON. RICHARD A. McHEFFEY, M. E. C., *President of the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.*

HALIFAX, 23rd April, 1874.

Professor Lawson has acted as Secretary of the Central Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia, for ten years, during which time important political changes and modifications in the constitution of the Board itself have taken place—yet he has throughout performed his duties in a very efficient manner, and to the satisfaction of all parties.

Should the Ontario Government secure his services as Professor in Toronto University, I feel confident they will never have cause to regret their choice.

R. A. McHEFFEY,
President of Central Board of Agriculture.

From J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., *Principal of McGill College and University, Montreal.*

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, April 16, 1874.

MY DEAR SIR,—Although, before the receipt of your letter of the 11th, I had given a note of recommendation to another Candidate for the Toronto Chair, this does not prevent me from stating to you my high appreciation of your work in this country, and my conviction that in any chair of Natural Science to which you may be called, your

energy and knowledge cannot fail to give a great impulse to the study of Natural History, and especially to the important subject of Botany.

Yours truly,

J. W. DAWSON.

PROF. LAWSON.

[*The Testimonials following were chiefly obtained when Professor Lawson became a Candidate for the Chair of Natural History and Chemistry in Queen's College, Kingston, as will be observed from the dates.*]

From the BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

Dr. George Lawson has for the period of nearly five years discharged most faithfully and efficiently the duties of Secretary and Curator to the Botanical Society. He has good literary and scientific acquirements, and is an interesting and instructive writer. He is persevering and pains-taking; conscientious and regular in all his doings; of gentlemanly manners, and of a very obliging and modest disposition.

Signed in name and by authority of the Society,

J. H. BALFOUR, M.D., *President.*

ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, LL.D., *Hon. Secy.*

From *Annual Presidential Address to the Royal Society, Edinburgh, on the Opening of Session 1867-8*, by Sir ROBERT CHRISTISON, Baronet, M.D., *Professor of Materia Medica.*

“The Council, in noticing the completion of this important labour, [the publication of the Catalogue of the Society's Library] cannot express too highly the sense they entertain of the services of Dr. Lawson, who has applied himself to the task put before him with a zeal, diligence, method, and ability, which led the Council to congratulate themselves and the Society on the choice which was made in appointing him.”

From JOHN HUTTON BALFOUR, M.D., M.A., F.R.S.S.L. & E., *Professor of Medicine and Botany in the University of Edinburgh, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden.*

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH,

26th January, 1858.

I have had the pleasure of being intimately acquainted with Dr. George Lawson for many years, and I have been led to form a high opinion of his abilities and acquirements. He is an excellent

Naturalist, and has devoted much attention to Botany and Zoology. He acted as Assistant in the Botanical Class, and has conducted the courses of Histological Botany in the University. He has lectured successfully on Botany, and has shown that he has the power of communicating information in a clear and interesting manner. He has also given much attention to Chemistry, and has been engaged in Analysis. He has contributed many valuable articles to periodicals, and has read papers on Natural History subjects to the Botanical and Royal Physical Societies. In his deportment he is modest and exemplary, and he has secured the friendship of all with whom he has been brought into contact.

I consider him to be in every respect highly qualified for the Chair of Chemistry and Natural History in Queen's College, Kingston, Canada.

J. H. BALFOUR.

From GEORGE J. ALLMAN, M.D., F.R.SS. L. & E., *formerly Professor of Natural History (Zoology and Mineralogy) in the University of Edinburgh.*

10 HOPE STREET, EDINBURGH,
Jan. 26, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,—Understanding that you are a candidate for the Professorship of Natural History, &c., now vacant in Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, I have great pleasure in stating how well qualified I believe you to be for the appointment you seek. Your knowledge of the various branches of Natural Science required for that post, in some of which you have distinguished yourself by original and successful research, your experience as a lecturer, your unwearied industry and thorough business habits, point you out as one who would assuredly fill such a chair with credit to yourself, and with advantage to the College which may be fortunate enough to secure your services.

Wishing you every success, believe me, &c.,

GEO. J. ALLMAN.

DR. LAWSON.

From the late GEORGE WILSON, M.D., F.R.S.E., *Professor of Technology in the University of Edinburgh, and Director of the Industrial Museum of Scotland.*

EDINBURGH, October 4, 1854.

MY DEAR DR. LAWSON,—I have no claim, as you know, to offer any but a very general opinion concerning the merits of a botanist; but I feel no difficulty in stating, that from the perusal of your

botanical writings, and from many conversations with you regarding questions of Vegetable Physiology, I believe you to be highly accomplished in the science you specially profess. I have always understood, also, that your studies extended over a large domain of Natural History; and from your skill and grace as a writer, and your acceptability as a teacher, I feel assured that, if promoted to the vacant chair in Cork, you would very conscientiously, and, I doubt not, successfully, fulfil its duties. Believe me yours, &c.

GEORGE WILSON.

From ALEXANDER ROSE, Esq., F.R.S.S-A., F.R.P.S., *Lecturer on Mineralogy and Geology, Edinburgh.*

1 DRUMMOND STREET, EDINBURGH,
26th January, 1858.

I have for several years had the pleasure, and, I may add, the advantage, of the acquaintance of Dr. George Lawson, and I know him to be well acquainted with several branches of Natural History. He is a careful and successful cultivator of Chemistry, and he has attended to Geology and Mineralogy, and other allied branches. I have attended some of his public lectures delivered in Edinburgh, and can bear testimony to the accuracy of his descriptions, the clearness and simple elegance of his language, and his plain and effective delivery, by which he interests and carries his hearers along with him; and I am quite satisfied that Dr. Lawson is qualified to fill a high place as a public instructor. He is modest in his manners, of unassuming demeanour, and irreproachable in his moral character. He is well versed in Botany, on which subject he gives a summer course here.

ALEX. ROSE.

From A. DOUGLAS MACLAGAN, M. D., F. R. S. E., *Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh, and Honorary Curator of the Royal Society's Library.*

29 HERIOT ROW, EDINBURGH,
25th January 1858.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have just learned that you intend to apply for a Lectureship on Natural and Chemical Science, and that you think that an expression of opinion from me regarding your qualifications may be of use to you. I gladly comply with your wish. In common with all the other Fellows and Office-Bearers of the Botanical Society, I can bear testimony to the zeal, assiduity, and success with which

you have cultivated Botany ; and as you have had some experience in giving instructions in that science, both in the form of prelections and demonstrations, I shall consider any Institution to be fortunate which secures your services.

Regarding your powers of working, and your methodical and assiduous application to anything which you take in hand, no one can speak better than myself, from the personal experience which I have had of your efficiency since you were appointed Assistant-Curator of the Library of the Royal Society. I am glad to have this opportunity of tendering my thanks to you for the intelligence, as well as industry, which you displayed in the preparation of the Library Catalogue, which has just been finished.—Believe me, &c.,

Dr. GEO. LAWSON.

DOUGLAS MACLAGAN.

From STEVENSON MACADAM, Ph.D., F.R.S.E., &c., Lecturer on Chemistry Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and Editor of Transactions of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, &c.

SURGEONS' HALL, EDINBURGH,
January 26, 1858.

I have great pleasure in bearing testimony to the literary and scientific acquirements of Dr. George Lawson. For ten years I have known him personally, and have derived very great benefit from my intercourse with him. Besides attending two courses of lectures on Botany delivered by him, and perusing the various scientific papers he has published, I have had frequent occasion to consult him on scientific subjects, and have always found him able and willing to assist me. His powers of communicating knowledge to others are of a high order, and his zeal and enthusiasm for the advancement of his pupils cannot be surpassed. He has diligently cultivated an acquaintance with all the subjects comprehended under the term Natural Science, and has lately devoted much time and attention to the acquisition of an intimate knowledge of Theoretical and Analytical Chemistry. During his attendance in my lecture-room and laboratory he has exhibited great perseverance and success, and has proved himself an expert manipulator.

Considering the many scientific qualifications of Dr. Lawson, and the readiness with which he communicates information to others, I have been led to the conviction that he is competent to fill, and deserving of, a Chair of Natural Science.

STEVENSON MACADAM

From JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., *Edinburgh, Secretary of the Royal Physical Society of Edinburgh.*

EDINBURGH, 7 WEST MAITLAND STREET,
January 26, 1858.

DEAR SIR,—Understanding you intend applying for the Professorship of Natural History and Chemistry in Queen's College, Kingston, Upper Canada, allow me to say I wish you every success. As my colleague in the Secretaryship of the Royal Physical Society, I have had some opportunity of judging of your qualifications in various branches of Natural History, and have no doubt, should you be elected to fill the present vacancy, your steady industrious habits, and scientific attainments, will make you a valuable official in that or any other situation in which you may be placed.—I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

JOHN ALEX. SMITH.

From the late ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE, LL.D., *Author of The Scottish Cryptogamic Flora, and the Flora Edinensis; joint Author, with Sir William Hooker, of the Icones Filicum, and other works.*

EDINBURGH, 26th January, 1858.

I have much pleasure in certifying that I have long known Dr. George Lawson as a devoted and successful cultivator of Natural History. His more peculiar department has hitherto been that of Phytology, on which he has for some years past delivered public lectures. It is no small recommendation that he has been appointed one of the two scientific teachers who occupy during the present session the Chair of Natural History in the New College of this city, vacant by the death of the learned and lamented Dr. Fleming.

His scientific and intellectual attainments are therefore unquestionable.

Dr. Lawson's gentlemanly manner and address, and high character in every relation of life, are assuredly additional recommendations of no small value.

I should rejoice were he to receive the appointment of Professor of Natural History in Queen's College, Kingston.

ROBERT KAYE GREVILLE.

From WILLIAM MOFFAT, Esq., M. A., Teacher of Mathematics in the High School, Edinburgh.

HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH,
25th January, 1858.

I have much pleasure in stating that I am intimately acquainted with Dr. George Lawson, and that I entertain a very high opinion of him as a scholar and as a man. Of his attainments and eminence in his own peculiar department of study, I do not consider myself qualified to speak; but this I may state, that in Edinburgh he enjoys the character of being a botanist of great eminence, and a successful teacher of that department of study.

Dr. Lawson is a gentleman possessed of much general information, of pleasing manners, and of high Christian worth; and I know that he is highly respected and beloved by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance. I feel assured, that in whatever situation he may be placed, he will perform his duties faithfully, and to the entire satisfaction of those under whom he may be placed.

WILLIAM MOFFAT.

From JOHN SIBBALD, M.D., F.B.S.E., &c., formerly President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh.

MORNINGSIDE, January 18, 1858.

In giving my opinion of Dr. George Lawson's qualifications for filling a chair of Chemistry and Natural History, my first feeling is, that no gentleman with whom I am acquainted is so well fitted for occupying a responsible post requiring a knowledge of these sciences.

I have been intimately acquainted with him as a scientific man during the last seven years, though he had been previously distinguished by his acquirements in physical science.

His many published memoirs render any personal testimony to his botanical learning superfluous. He is a good practical zoologist; he has had more than usually good opportunities of studying Chemistry, and having availed himself to the utmost of this advantage, he has what is unfortunately a rare merit, being both a good chemist and good natural historian.

The appointments he has already held have given him ample practice as a lecturer; and having had an opportunity of listening to him, I believe Dr. Lawson to be well fitted for such occupation.

His unostentatious manner and sterling rectitude have made him a general favourite with his acquaintances, who would much regret

losing his society were he not likely to advance his prospects in leaving.

Should Dr. Lawson be appointed, I am sure the choice will never be regretted.

JOHN SIBBALD.

From the late Right Hon. JOHN WYNNE of Haslewood, M.P. for Sligo.

I feel great pleasure in bearing my testimony in favour of Dr. George Lawson. Having had opportunities of forming an opinion of his capabilities as a teacher of science, I have no hesitation in expressing, that in my opinion he is well qualified to discharge the duties of the office which he seeks.

JOHN WYNNE.

From THOMAS BARCLAY, Esq., Sheriff-Clerk for the County of Fife.

CUPAR, January 9th, 1854.

I had an opportunity last summer, in the course of botanical excursions with Professor Balfour and his class, to witness the esteem in which Dr. Lawson was held by students and others present on these occasions, and which he well deserved from the ready and unostentatious and obliging way in which he often afforded assistance and explanation when required, of the subjects under investigation.

THOS. BARCLAY.

From D. MOORE, Ph. D., Member of the Royal Irish Academy, and Associate of the Linnæan Society, London, Author of "Cybele Hibernica."

DUBLIN, January 23, 1858.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—Your letter of the 20th inst. informs me that you are applying to be appointed Professor of Natural History, &c., in Canada West; and farther, you express a desire that, in my capacity of Lecturer on Botany to the agricultural pupils at Glasnevin, under Her Majesty's Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and Curator of the Royal Botanical Garden, Dublin, I will state my opinion of your suitability for the situation.

It affords me pleasure to comply with your request, but in doing so, I will confine myself to that branch of Natural History I have made my special study, namely Botany. As a teacher of that science, I do not think a better man than yourself could be got in Great Britain. The sound and critical knowledge you possess of your

subject, the valued gift you have of addressing pupils, your being in the very prime of life, your gentlemanlike and prepossessing manner, coupled with that enthusiastic love for natural science, which lightens labour, render you, in my opinion, not only a suitable person, but one who will be a great acquisition to any body of gentlemen who may be fortunate enough to obtain your services in that capacity.

DR. LAWSON.

D. MOORE.

From J. T. SYME, LL.D., F.L.S., F.R.B.S., F.R.Ph.S., F.B.S.E., M.E.S., formerly Lecturer on Botany at Charing Cross and Westminster Hospitals, London, Author of the scientific descriptions of the new edition of "English Botany."

LONDON, January 19, 1858.

I have much pleasure in bearing my testimony to the talents and scientific acquirements of my friend, Dr. George Lawson, of which I have had ample opportunity of forming my opinion during an acquaintance of more than ten years.

I know no one better fitted for a chair which embraces both Chemistry and Natural History. In Chemistry Dr. Lawson has had great experience in the analyses of Ores, Manures, and other economic substances. To all branches of Natural History he has paid much attention, both in the study and in the field, and has embodied much valuable information in papers contributed to different scientific journals, &c.

As a teacher, Dr. Lawson has had long experience and success, both as extra-academical Lecturer, and as Demonstrator of Botany and Histology at the University of Edinburgh; and he is at present, conjointly with Mr. Murray, conducting the Natural History course at the New College there. In addition to his microscopic demonstrations, he is in the habit of taking large classes into the field, and there teaching them to make practical use of the knowledge acquired in the lecture-room.

He is highly esteemed as a teacher on account of his aptitude for imparting knowledge; while his own genuine love of science cannot fail to inspire those around him with some portion of the enthusiasm with which he pursues his investigations; and his amiable disposition and gentlemanly deportment are sure to give him a personal influence over his students.

Dr. Lawson has for many years occupied official positions in the Edinburgh scientific societies, as secretary to the Royal Physical and Botanical Societies, &c., where his services are highly appreciated, and their loss would be seriously felt.

I heartily wish him success in his present application, feeling that, should he be appointed, the College would be greatly benefited by the assistance of one so well qualified for the duties that would devolve upon him.

JOHN T. SYME.

From JAMES GILCHRIST, M.D. Edin., Medical Superintendent of the Crichton Royal Institution and Southern Counties Asylum, Dumfries.

DUMFRIES, *January 21, 1858.*

I have had more or less intercourse with Dr. George Lawson for some years past, and have formed a very high opinion of his character and acquirements, more especially of his zeal and success as a student and teacher of various branches of Natural History.

I am intimately acquainted with many persons, some of whom were his own teachers, others his pupils, and who thus know him well, and who are capable of forming a correct judgment both of himself and in regard to the subjects to which he is devoted, and all of them confirm my opinion.

I have heard Dr. Lawson lecture, and can testify to his high qualifications as a teacher. He is correct, lucid, and impressive. His prelections are usually accompanied with pictorial, diagrammatic, mechanical, and other illustrations, which he is equally fertile in suggesting and skilful in executing.

I have accompanied him on a botanical tour, and have been a witness of his untiring perseverance, shrewd observation, and practical suggestions.

I know that, in his studies, he has not been satisfied with a knowledge of what others have done, but has employed himself in unoccupied fields, involving much severe chemical and microscopical research.

I can, from personal intercourse, testify to his unobtrusive manners, obliging disposition, and irreproachable character.

JAMES GILCHRIST.

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