

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1899.

SIR WILLIAM DAWSON.

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In Sir William Dawson there has passed away the last survivor of that distinguished group of naturalists which in the earlier part of this century achieved for science in America such brilliant results and such widespread recognition—men whose range of knowledge was almost encyclopædic and many of whom made valuable contributions to science, in widely separated fields. The environment of the man of science has now changed and the older type of naturalist seems unfortunately about to disappear.

Sir John William Dawson was a native of Nova Scotia, a province which has produced more than its share of the Canadians who have risen to eminence in the various walks of life, having been born at Pictou on October 13, 1820. He died at Montreal on November 19, 1899, at the age of 79.

His father, James Dawson, was a native of Aberdeen Scotland, and came to Nova Scotia to fill a position in a leading business house in Pictou, and on the termination of his engagement began business there on his own account.

While still at school in Pictou at the age of 12 he developed a love for natural science, inherited from his father, and made large collections of fossil plants from the Nova Scotia coal measures, so well exposed about his native place. He speaks of himself at that time as being a "moderately diligent but not a specially brilliant