

RECEPTION BY THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE  
ON OCCASION OF THE OPENING OF  
THE PETER REDPATH MUSEUM  
OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

---

*Guests will be received in the Hall of  
the Museum from 8 to 9 o'clock.*

*At Nine o'clock, the Deed of Gift will  
be presented to the Chancellor and  
Governors by Mr. Redpath and Ad-  
dresses will be delivered by eminent  
Members of the Association.*

*After the formal opening of the Museum,  
opportunity will be given to inspect  
the collections and there will be an  
Exhibition of Photographs of Amer-  
ican Caverns in the Lecture Theatre  
by Rev. H. C. Hovey, assisted by Mr.  
S. R. Frowse.*

Principal & Mrs. Dawson

Request the pleasure of the Company of

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in the Peter Redpath Museum,

On Thursday Evening, the 24th of August,  
at Eight o'clock.

EVENING DRESS.

R. S. V. P.

Entrance by front door of Museum.

This Card to be presented at the door.

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Principal & Mrs. Dawson,

request the pleasure of your company.

at the marriage of their daughter.

Wednesday June seventh.

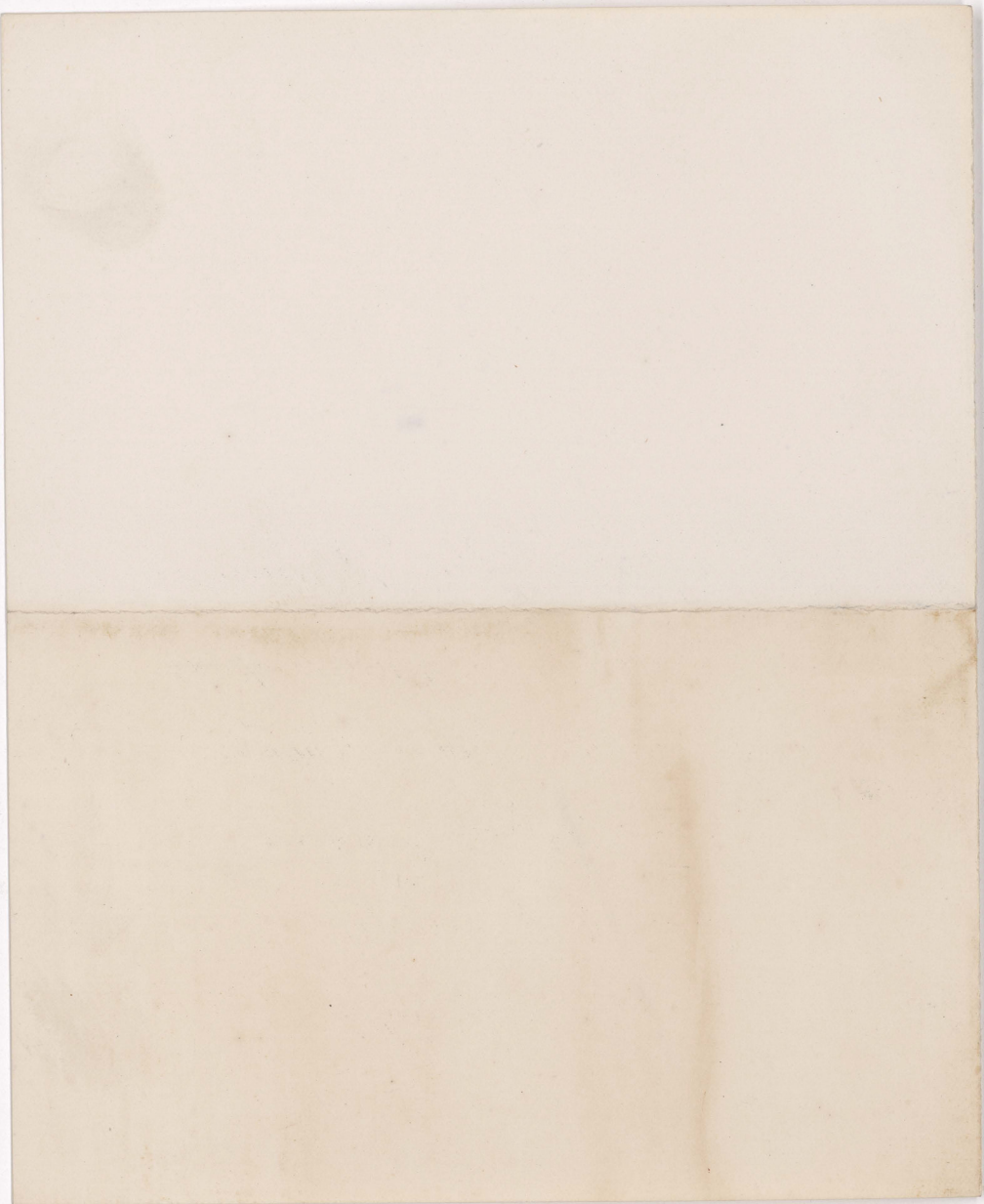
at twelve o'clock.

Mc Gill College.

Anna Lois Dawson.

Bernard James Harrington.





(PRIVATE.)

To the members of the Council of the Royal Society of London.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg leave herewith to present to you copies of my Report on the Land Plants of the Devonian and Lower Silurian of Canada, as now printed under the auspices of the Canadian Geological Survey, and to thank you for your kindness in granting me the use of my manuscript and drawings in your Archives, for the purpose of this publication. In doing so, I would make a few statements with reference to my reasons for offering the memoir to the Royal Society and for now publishing it in another way.

In 1868, after the labor of more than ten years in the Devonian Flora, I offered to prepare a memoir on the subject for your Society, and received an official letter from the Secretary, encouraging me to hope that it would be printed, with 10 or 12 plates if necessary.

I had already expended large sums in exploratory expeditions, and in procuring for my private library all the accessible literature on the subject; but in order to make the memoir more worthy of the Society, I thoroughly re-examined with two assistants the plant-bearing beds of Gaspé, in the summer of 1869. I also visited London in 1870, principally to have opportunities of explaining the subject personally and of studying British collections; for which opportunities kindly given, I have to thank your Society as well as other institutions and individual collectors. On this occasion I brought with me, at some expense and risk, a large part of my collections bearing on the subject, duplicates from which I distributed liberally to institutions and students in Great Britain.

I also offered, in a written communication to your Secretary, to pay the expense of such plates as might be required in addition to those previously stipulated, and to make such changes in the arrangement of the memoir as might be suggested.

I would further observe that my memoir describes or further illustrates no fewer than one hundred and twenty species of plants older than the Carboniferous Period, and embraces the results of many years of careful study and field-work both in Fossil Botany and Geology; that no such mass of information on these old plants and their geological relations, exists elsewhere in the English Language; that we know but little of the Devonian Flora of the British Islands or its geological relations, and that Eastern America is evidently the head-quarters of the Devonian Flora and the typical region for its study.

In these circumstances I was justified in hoping that the memoir would have been welcomed by the Society as an important addition to knowledge, and was accordingly greatly disappointed, when, on the report of referees unknown to me, (but who cannot have been experts either in the botanical or geological aspects of the question, since it is well known to me that these do not exist in England,) its publication was refused.

I could not of course consent that one of the most important labours of my life should remain unpublished; and was preparing to print the memoir and its illustrations at my own risk, when the Director of the Geological Survey kindly invited me to throw it into the form of a Report on the Pre-Carboniferous Flora of Canada.

I make this explanation to justify my own conduct in offering to the Society a memoir which it has declined to publish, and in now printing the same memoir in another form; and also to guard against the criticism of those who may have advised or promoted the action of the Council in the matter; which criticism, if offered, I shall, after this explanation, consider myself justified in resenting as impertinent and offensive.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. DAWSON.



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In 1858, after the labor of more than ten years in the Devonian Flora, I offered to prepare a memoir on the subject for your Society, and received an official letter from the Secretary, encouraging me to hope that it would be printed, with 10 or 12 plates if necessary.

I had already expended large sums in exploratory expeditions, and in procuring for my private library all the accessible literature on the subject; but in order to make the memoir more worthy of the Society, I thoroughly re-examined with two assistants the plant-bearing beds of Gaspé, in the summer of 1858. I also visited London in 1850, principally to have opportunities of explaining the subject personally, and of studying British collections; for which opportunities kindly given, I have to thank your Society as well as other institutions and individual collectors. On this occasion I brought with me, at some expense and risk, a large part of my collection bearing on the subject, duplicates from which I distributed liberally to institutions and students in Great Britain.

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I would further observe that my memoir describes or figures illustrations no fewer than one hundred and twenty species of plants other than the Carboniferous Flora, and embraces the results of many years of careful study and field-work both in local botany and geology; that no such mass of information on these old plants and their geological relations, exists elsewhere in the English Language; that we know but little of the Devonian Flora of the British Islands or its geological relations, and that Eastern America is evidently the headquarters of the Devonian Flora and the typical region for its study.

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In 1865, after the lapse of more than ten years in the Devonian Flora, I offered to prepare a memoir on the subject for your Society, and received an official letter from the Secretary, encouraging me to hope that it would be printed, with 16 or 17 plates if necessary.

I had already expended large sums in exploratory expeditions, and in procuring for my private library all the necessary literature on the subject; but in order to make the memoir more worthy of the Society, I thoroughly re-examined with two assistants the plant-bearing beds of Gaspe, in the summer of 1868. I also visited London in 1870, principally to have opportunities of explaining the subject personally, and of studying British collections; for which opportunities kindly given, I have to thank your Society as well as other institutions and individual collectors. On this occasion I brought with me, at some expense and risk, a large part of my collections bearing on the subject, duplicates from which I distributed liberally to institutions and students in Great Britain.

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