

SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1901.

GEORGE M. DAWSON.

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By the death of Dr. G. M. Dawson, the Dominion of Canada loses one of her ablest and most distinguished men of science and one whose loss will be felt for many years to come. George Mercer Dawson was the eldest son of the late Sir William Dawson and was born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, on August 1, 1849. In 1855, his father, having received the appointment as Principal of McGill College, left Nova Scotia and came to live in Montreal. The wide college grounds, lying then on the outskirts of the town and backed by Mount Royal, at that time covered with its original forest growth, formed an environment full of interest and delight to the boy, whose mind turned to the study of nature from the first, a study which was made doubly fascinating in his case by his father, who was always ready to encourage him in his work, explain his difficulties and talk with him as a friend.

At the age of ten he entered the High School at Montreal, where he took a high place among the boys of his class. There were, however, at that time, near what is now the center of the city of Montreal, a number of ponds in which the boys from the High School used to go rafting at lunch hour. On one of these occasions he received a drenching and remained in his damp clothes through the afternoon ; a chill was induced, which led to spinal trouble,