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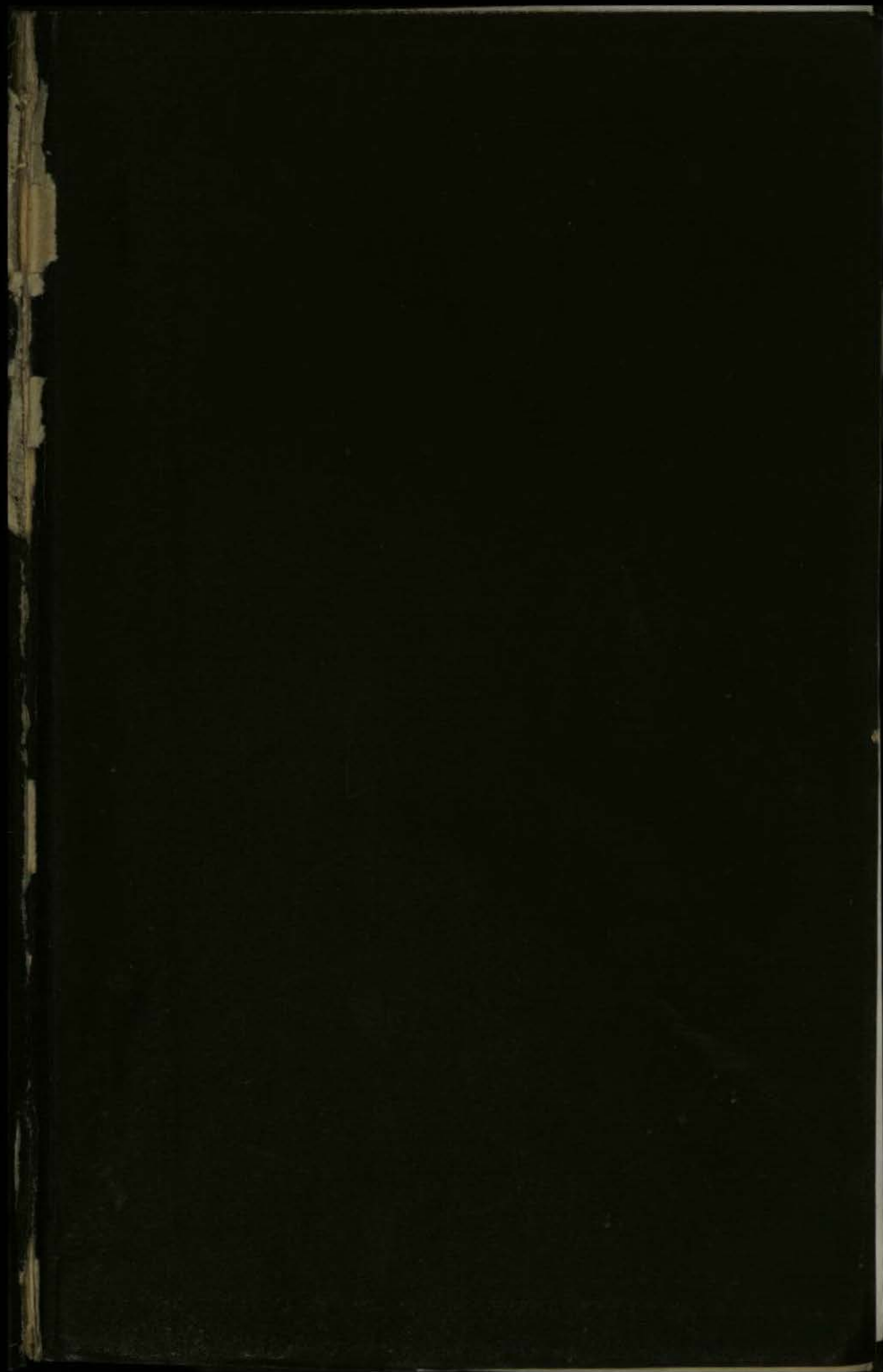
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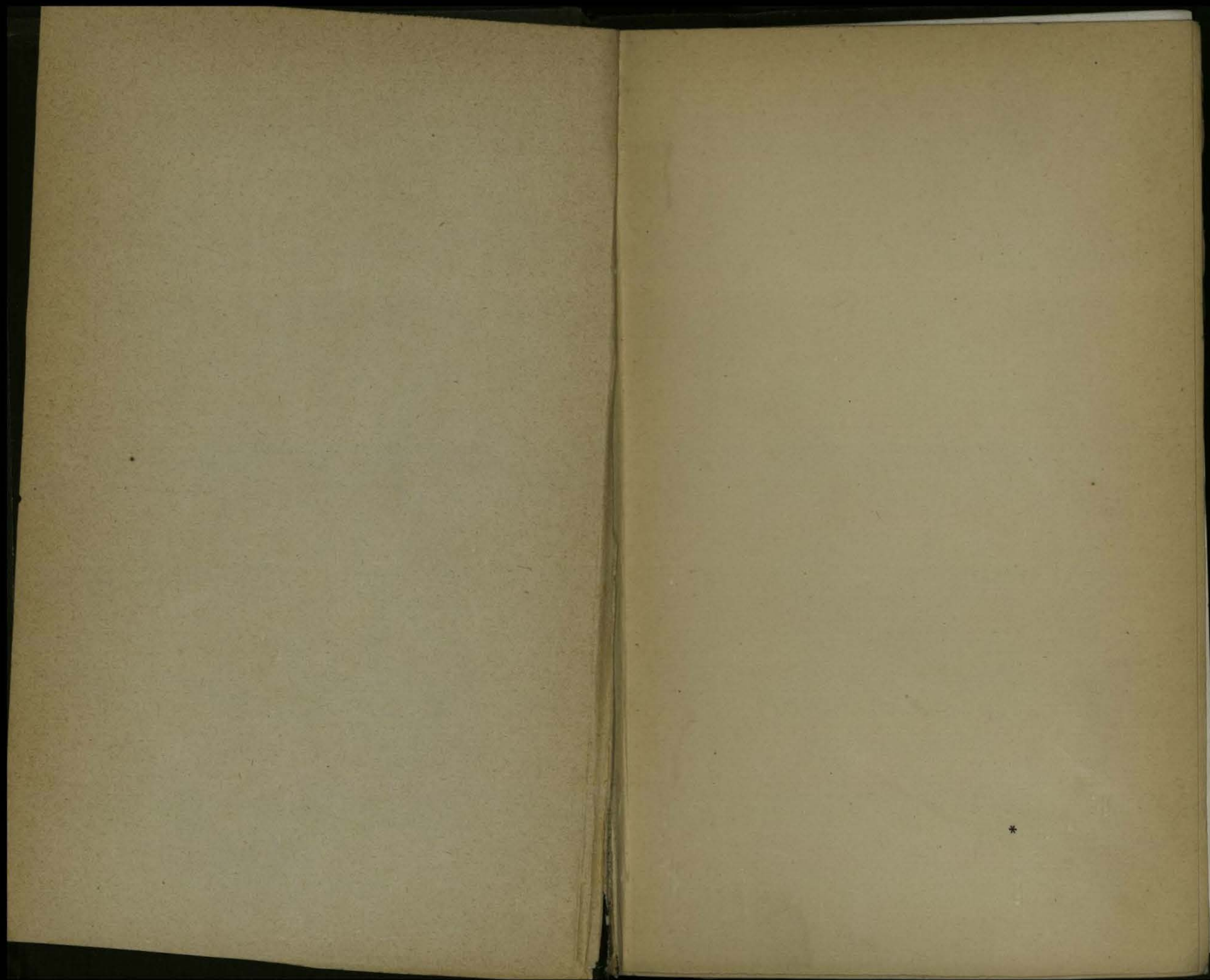
SIR J. WILLIAM
DAWSON

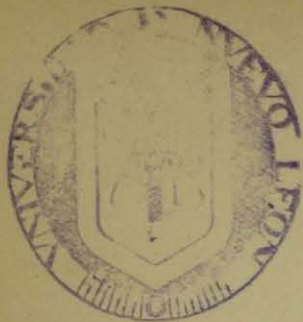
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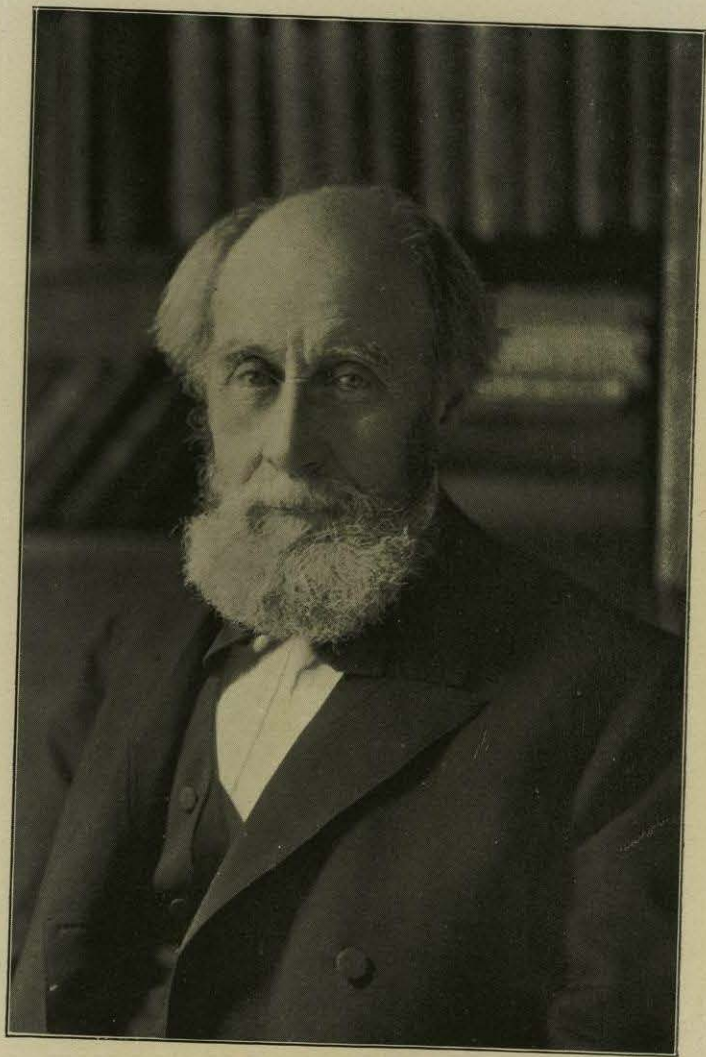
*"O God, Thou hast taught me from my youth, and
hitherto have I declared Thy wondrous works."*

—PSA. lxxi. 17.



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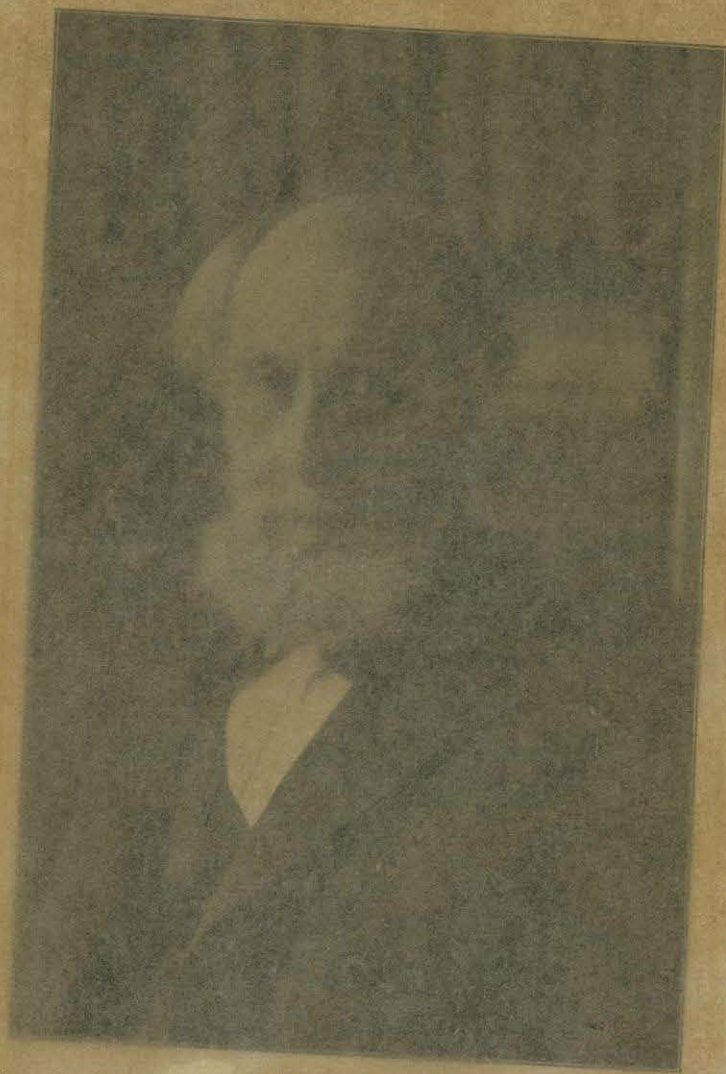
BEING AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL NOTES BY
MR. WILLIAM DAWSON, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S.

LATE FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, MONTREAL

EDITED BY
ALBERT EDWIN HALL, M.A., F.R.S.E.

LONDON AND BIRMINGHAM
BALLANTYNE, HANSON & CO.

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PREFATORY NOTE

No introduction is required to the "autobiographical notes," comprising this little volume, nor will one be attempted. Whilst it has been a labour of love to us, his sons, to read over, and arrange, the somewhat hastily compiled notes left by our father, we desire neither to take credit, nor to assume responsibility, for the result,—as now placed before the public. This book, is Sir William Dawson's own account of his life and work, and is, by his express wish, presented in his own words. From beginning to end, it is his, and his alone! That it does not claim to be a biography, in any proper sense, it is needless to state; nor, is it necessary to apologise, for omissions, and lack of continuity. It was never

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intended to be more than rough jottings, of such events and periods in his life, as remained, after the lapse of years, most firmly and vividly impressed on his own mind.

To myself, personally, the editing of this little book has been a duty, as well as a pleasure, since I undertook, at my father's request, to see that it was put into the form he desired, at as early a date as circumstances might permit.

R. D.

1136 SHERBROOKE STREET,
MONTREAL, *December* 1900.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

It has been truly said, that the story of any human being, has its lessons either of encouragement or of warning. I make no apology therefore for preparing the sketches that follow,—more especially as many of them refer to persons and events of much more importance than what pertains to myself individually.

They will, in any case, I trust, be of some use to my children and grand-children, and perhaps to others who may have been influenced by my teaching. To me, they are rather a record of failure, or of very partial success, and I may truly say that the failures are my own, the successes due to the guidance of my Heavenly Father, and to His over-ruling Providence.

I may add here, that, in so far as I have had any success as a teacher of Natural Science, it has been due to my reverend regard for every natural object, as the handiwork of the Divine Creator, and as consequently a sacred thing, the description or illustration of which was to supersede altogether any consideration of personal display or reputation. This is, I believe, the true secret of any power to influence young people, whether with regard to natural objects or as to higher things. Whether the object referred to, be the scale of a moth's wing, or the structure of a mountain, it has, for the time being, to be regarded as the work of God, and therefore transcendently above either the speaker or the hearer.

J. W. D.

LITTLE MÉTIS,
July 1898.

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