

scientific circles, both in Great Britain and in the United States, and the geologic research which he carried out in Nova Scotia and other parts of eastern North America was widely used. Dawson was trained in theology and the original Biblical languages, as well as in geology and paleontology. Throughout his life he remained a staunch conservative and a defender of the full inspiration of the Scriptures. Like Hugh Miller, he recognized the Biblical account of creation as being easily understood when the days of creation are taken as long periods of time. A major part of Dawson's life work was directed toward a defense of the unity and divine origin of the human race, and the nonacceptability of evolutionary theories.⁵⁴ He lectured widely and published many articles and books setting forth the weaknesses and objectionable features of Darwinian evolution. Conservative evangelicals, both during his lifetime and for several decades thereafter, considered Dawson to be one of their strongest bulwarks against evolutionary theory. It is significant that in all his work for the cause of Biblical creation Dawson accepted the geologic evidence for a very old earth, and made good use of the data of geology and paleontology in upholding the Biblical doctrines.

FOOTNOTES

1. A. D. White, A History of the Warfare of Science with Theology in Christendom, v. 1, p. 217.

Note--This author, as well as several of the other authors used in these references, does not represent a theologically conservative position. Though we often have to disagree with the sentiment expressed by these authors as they report historical events, we nevertheless find the factual materials which they report to be highly meaningful from our conservative standpoint. This same principle also applies to a number of the sources used in the previous chapters of this book.

2. Ibid., p. 218-230.

3. W. B. N. Berry, Growth of a Prehistoric Time Scale, 1968, p. 16-17.

4. It must be remembered, as pointed out in earlier chapters of this book, that the great majority of fossils are not the bones of vertebrate animals, but are the shells and other skeletal structures of invertebrate, marine animals.

5. White, p. 219.

6. Ibid., p. 218-219.

7. As quoted in S. Toulmin and J. Goodfield, The Discovery of Time, 1965, p. 144.

8. Ibid., p. 146-149.