

**AIR-BREATHERS OF THE COAL
PERIOD: DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT
OF THE REMAINS OF LAND
ANIMALS FOUND IN THE COAL
FORMATION OF NOVA SCOTIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649505791

Air-breathers of the Coal Period: Descriptive Account of the Remains of Land Animals Found in the Coal Formation of Nova Scotia by J. W. Dawson

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J. W. DAWSON

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AIR-BREATHERS OF THE COAL PERIOD.



RESTORATIONS OF
BAPHETES, DENDREPETON, HYLONOMUS,
AND HYLERPETON.

AIR-BREATHERS

OF THE

COAL PERIOD:

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE REMAINS OF LAND ANIMALS
FOUND IN THE COAL FORMATION

OF

NOVA SCOTIA,

WITH REMARKS ON THEIR BEARING ON THEORIES OF THE FORMATION OF
COAL AND OF THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES.

BY J. W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S., F.G.S., ETC.,

Principal of McGill University.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.



Montreal:

DAWSON BROTHERS, GREAT ST. JAMES STREET.

LONDON, H. BAILLIERS; NEW YORK, BAILLIERS BROTHERS.

1868.

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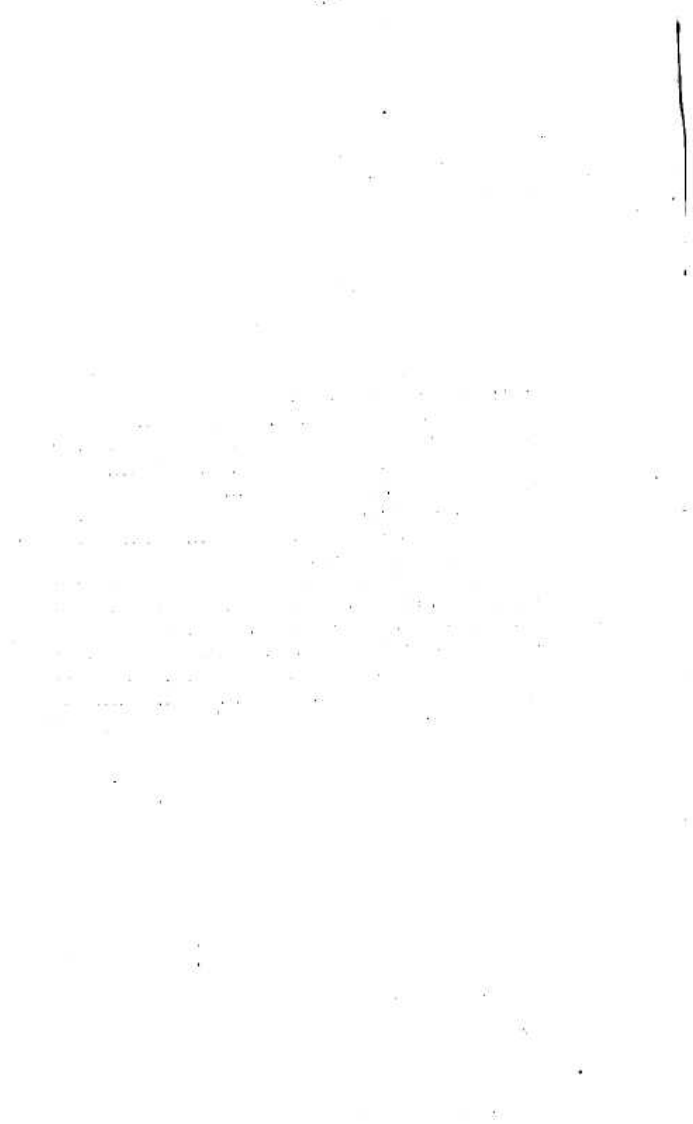
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2001



PREFACE.

A certain moral obligation rests on the discoverer or possessor of new and valuable fossils, to make them known as extensively as possible to the scientific world. This he may do either personally or by the aid of others more conversant with the class of objects in question. I have generally preferred the latter course for all objects not included in my own special lines of investigation; and in the case of the subjects of the present brochure, have presented them, as discovered, to the investigation of naturalists specially engaged in the study of such remains. Through their kindness my specimens have been extensively illustrated, chiefly in the pages of the *Journal of the Geological Society of London*. I have, however, found it impossible to bring out in this way all the details desirable, and to present a connected view of the facts. Hence the present publication, in which I give a summary of all that I have been able to ascertain of the land animals of the coal period in Nova Scotia, and endeavour to make my collection of their fossil remains the common property of all geologists and naturalists, thereby discharging the obligations under which I am laid by having had these precious relics placed by Providence in my hands.

To do this has cost me some sacrifice. The time required has been snatched from scanty intervals of rest in the midst of daily severe toil, and above all it has necessarily been taken from the prosecution of those researches in the fossil botany of the palaeozoic period, to which I have devoted special attention for many years, and which are yet very incomplete. These circumstances, and the scanty means of reference and comparison at my disposal, I must plead as excuses for any imperfections which may appear in the work.

The lithographed illustrations must not be taken as evidence of the state of art in Canada. They are merely transfers from my own rough tracings of the objects, and the only merit which they claim is that of accuracy of outline.

The photograph inserted in some of the copies, I owe to the kindness of Mr. G. B. Prowse, an amateur artist of this city. It presents an accurate magnified picture of some of the principal remains; and deserves much praise as a highly successful application of microscopic photography to very difficult objects.

It is proper to add that the greater part of the matter of this memoir has appeared in the *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist* for 1863.

J. W. DAWSON.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL,
JUNE, 1868.