



Walter Mantell, ca. 1894. Photo neg. 7984 1/2

discovery of the *Iguanodon*—the first of the large extinct reptiles of the Mesozoic.²⁷ He had hoped that his son would take over his practice in medicine and follow him in science. Gideon Mantell was a melancholy and unhappy man. A bitterness approaching paranoia accompanied personal misfortunes and social mishaps. Professionally he was torn by the conflict between the practical demands of medicine and his passion for a science in which he was largely self-taught. He was a member of that transitional generation of semi-professionals who tried to balance their medical practice and their science with a risk to both.²⁸

It is probable that it was Gideon's expectations for his son—expectations which Walter knew he could not satisfy—which drove