

You allude to a slab you have  
sent which I have not yet  
heard of.

My dear Sir

I have always delayed writing to you in the hopes  
of being able to say that your last paper to the Geol. Socy had  
been read which after much delay has at length been  
accomplished, & it was well dispensed - The tracks of animals  
however owing to the absence of Dr Buckland, Mr Owen &  
other ichnologists did not attract the attention they de-  
serve. This I was amused at the desire of some also  
spoke to seem to the old idea of the beds being newer  
than the coal because of the supposed aptitude of the  
footsteps & reptiles or birds - I am not yet satis-  
fied that any footprint of have sent really belong  
to these classes & the case of Mr Logan from  
Horton is doubtful, but I have a presentiment  
that your country is destined to surprise us yet  
with this discovery. I thought your paper very

well written & it will be printed in full in the  
autumn in a new Journal which the Gov<sup>l</sup> Secy has  
determined to establish & in the first number of what your  
former communications - a printed in full & with I hope  
be out in Febry. This Journal was started up so  
suddenly & the course of procedure had to prep so  
rapidly that the papers by you & Mr. Brew were all  
printed before I had an opportunity to look to them -  
I will see to them more carefully if not abroad.

It may be satisfactory to you to know that I  
have thought so well of your geological labours that  
I very nearly wrote to you last autumn about a scheme  
what is in abeyance at present but what might  
have taken effect in the present year but for  
accidental circumstances, I mean a survey or  
geological reconnaissance of some of the East Id.

Dear Coal Fields. I do not wish this talked of  
out of your own family as the E. India Government  
said the affair began in a confidential or at  
least private manner & I had to advise as to the  
means of organizing such a survey & had to think of  
person, if I undertook the management of the affair  
myself who might be my aides thro' whom I should  
have required - It would have taken two years -  
the hot season spent in the high hills, 14 months  
only in the low country - the relations of the coal  
strata to other rocks to be made out & the relations  
of different coal-fields - expenses to be paid to  
& from England & a salary about which I might have left  
at the end of the 2 years & after a splendid tour  
a sum either profit of use to you - financial matters  
about caused this undertaking to be deferred, perhaps  
indefinitely as far as I am concerned & it would have

Letter Lyell Jan'y 1845

been unconscionable to me to go on such short notice in  
a month's time! I might have been tempted - Would our  
Cousins have made such an eastern tour (one gets there  
now in 6 weeks) a possible enterprise with you? I am  
going to visit the far West & the Illinois Coal Str.

FACTORY  
FEB 18  
1845



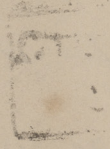
J. W. Dawson

Pilton

Nova Scotia

P

Per the ship  
the Halifax



open & my ... an ... westward - bent  
& I cannot visit Nova Scotia.  
be ... my dear ...

Febr 2

W. Lyell