

Feb 7 2. 1845

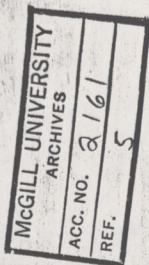
My dear Sir

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 discussed.

The tracks of animals however owing to the absence of Dr Buckland, Mr Owen & other ichnologists did not attract the attention they deserved, tho' I am amused at the desire of several who spoke to recur to the old idea of the beds being newer than the coal because of the supposed appartaining of the footsteps to reptiles or birds. I am not yet satisfied if any footprint you have sent really belonged 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 Geol. Socy has determined to establish - in the first number of which your former communications are printed in full, & will I hope be out in Feb.

This Journal was resolved upon so suddenly, & the arrears of proceedings put to press so rapidly that the papers by you, Mr Brown & I were all printed before I had an opportunity to look to them.

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 which 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 India Coal Fields. I did not wish this talked of out of your own family, as the S. India Government laid the affair before me in a confidential or at least private manner & I had to advise as to the means of organizing such



such a survey, I had to think of persons, if I undertook
the management of the affair myself, who might be my aides
two of whom I should have required. It would have taken
two years - the hot season spent in the high hills, 4 months
only in the low country - the relations of the coal strata
to other rocks to be made out & the relative ages of
different coal-fields - expenses to be paid to & from
England, & a salary which might have left at the end
of the 2 years - after a splendid tour, a sum possibly
of use to you. Financial matters alone caused this
undertaking to be deferred, perhaps indefinitely as
far as I am concerned, & it would have been inconvenient
to me to go on such short notice as 8 months, tho' I might
have been tempted. World circumstances 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 this year & my objects
are therefore all westward-bent, & I cannot visit
Nova Scotia.

Believe me to be dear Sir
ever most truly yr

Chadwell

J. W. Dawson Esq
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