

Pictou May 27, 1845

Letter to
H. Poole

Dear Sir

As there was not time on Saturday, to explain to you how far the statements of the report of the Committee on coal mines rested on my authority, and as I feel anxious to remove any suspicions which might arise from the short and imperfect statements of the published report, that I had adopted other men's facts without acknowledgement, or had interpreted the section in Haliburton in any unusual manner, I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject. The information required from me by the Committee was wholly of a geological nature; and related to the extent and distribution of the coal measures in this county their connection with those of Salmon river, and Ourlou, and

their separation from those of the Antigonish & Steiwache coal though on the south, and of that of Cumberland on the North; and to the nature and value of other mineral deposits, beside coal, found in this part of the Province.

On these subjects I gave them a written statement, chiefly containing the results of my own observations, many of them previously unpublished; and accompanied by a map and section showing the relations of the different members of the carboniferous system in this county, and the position of the principal deposits of coal, iron, gypsum &c. I also gave them an estimate of the probable duration of the bed of coal now worked, supposing it to yield twelve feet of coal and to extend three or four miles before being cut off by faults &c. For all this, as contained in the papers left with the Committee, I consider myself responsible.

I did not pretend to give, on my own authority, any detailed section of the strata measured; but, at the request of the Committee, reduced the table in Halliburton's History to the form of a longitudinal or cliff section, so as to show more distinctly the number and position of the beds of coal. I understood that table to represent a section perpendicular to the plane of the strata; and took it for granted that, whether it had been obtained by boring or driving or examining a natural section, it had, as is always done in constructing geological sections, been corrected for the inclination of the strata, so as to give perpendicular measurements. If however the table in Halliburton gives only measurements along a horizontal line extending across the beds, I have certainly misunderstood it, and every geologist who consults it must do so, since there is no hint in the book of any such unusual mode of construction having been adopted. In this case therefore, the blame of propagating error

must rest with those who constructed the
table in a manner so extraordinary. I am
sorry, however, that it has been so, for
after the publicity which has been given
to its statements by Messrs Gell & Logan,
their contradiction may lead to unpleasant
doubts and disputes.

I feel much indebted to you for
mentioning the matter to me, and shall
as early as possible avail myself of your
kind offer of information respecting the
real thickness included in Hall's section.
If you have time to call, when you are next
in Pictou, I show you the nature of the in-
formation given by me to the committee and
how far they have used it in their report.

I am yours respectfully,

J. Dawson