

To the Editor of the Morning Post
Sir I have in your paper of July 28 a
violent attack on some ^{on the 16 manuscript of 1845} letters published by me
in the Eastern Chronicle. Though the tone and spirit
of the communication are such as seemed to entitle it to
an answer, yet as it contains statements which
if uncontradicted may mislead those of your readers who
have not seen the letters in question I claim the pri-
vilege of replying to it. Yours

Your correspondent having by turning me out
some expressions used in a notice of my letters in
the *Illustration*, for those expressions I am not
responsible and as far as I am claiming
a trusty to any imputation that he has published
anything I had not written the name under one
of the fathers of British geology, and I have
sought subsequent opportunities of reprint in the old
world and in this country where accomplished in
New find explanation the ablest geologists who have
visited ^{the} ~~this country~~. In reference to my letters in the
Chronicle I have written and examined every
line being noted in them letters except when the
country is stated.

Your correspondent quotes several passages
a part of my evidence before the Commission
in 1845, His attorney's counter-
statements

My statements. I had recommended the
examination of a part of the counties of
Lough & Goldy. The only of the members of
were the Counties with the view of deter-
mining coal. The names quoted were given in answer
to a State question referring to the amount of sheep
my expenditure in various sections for a
preliminary ~~examination~~ - These particular details
they did not include the amount of the ^{yearly} salary
on which I gave no speech to the Com-
mittee. I saw when the minutes of evidence
were printed that my name was analyzed
and exposed, and sent immediately ex-
plained it as above in the "Times". The ex-
planation you correspondent has perhaps not
seen.

The main charge brought against me however is
that of plagiarism on Dr Jenner, whose works he purports
as my source of information. In reference to
this part of his accusation I can merely state
that he may believe it or not as he pleases
I read Dr Jenner's works of it's when it appeared, but
have not often referred to it since. I did not
consult it in preparing the letters in question - ex-
cept in the case of the Annapolis curves and
then I gave credit for the information I had
obtained, and by him an analysis of my own
of a specimen of the one which I had received from

applied. I have also read his report in P. E. Globe.
and some parts of that in N. Brunner but
am not aware that they contain anything
relating to the subject of my letters. His letters
in the Morning Post and morning journal I
never read. In relation to the communication
sent to the Geographical Socy in 1842 your cor-
respondent's conduct is disingenuous, An abstract
of that com was published in 1843, and the
map was published afterwards in one of the
same year with the following note: The Secretary of
the society

" This paper (McBrans of Britain) and the next
(McDunnis on Nova Scotia) are both illustrated
by the map of Nova Scotia appended; but this map
was originally prepared by Dr A. J. Fisher to illustrate the
paper of which a notice has already appeared
in the Proceedings Vol IV p 186. "

Your correspondent could not have referred
to the map without observing my paper in
the pages immediately preceding, and if he had
read it he would have found a map of parts
(in a condensed form) not included in any of Dr Fisher's
publications, and if he took those Proceedings equally
to read and had looked a little further he would
have found subsequent communications of a similar
description - in the face of these facts it is singular
that I should be accused of copying Dr Fisher's communications

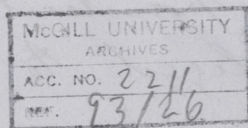
~~If which may be a better view given than my own
which was published in full, which I presume would be
be received & that were of~~

It is remarkable that your correspondent
knows his accounts & the writings of Dr Jenner
& of persons so well acquainted with geological literature as
he proposes to be must surely be aware that with-
out taking into the account anything that I have done
what since 1840, Mr Lyell Mr Sowerby & Mr Brown of Gylby
have communicated to the geological society seven highly
important papers on the geology of the Cape of Good Hope
and that the Fossils of the Cape of Good Hope
them contain a large amount of new information
on the same subject. It is no disparagement to say
that these publications without taking into account
anything that I have done contain an amount
of information ^{equal to} ~~as~~ ^{well as} all that was before
known. Now the avowed object of my letters
was to give a summary of the recent publications in
geology as well as of my own observations; and I had
found it necessary to copy it would surely have better
served my purpose as well as have been more sope-
to have known from these late publications of what
comparative few copies exist in our section than
to have them to have preferred from a work so
old and so well known as Jenner's geology of the Cape
this conduct alone renders your correspondent's account
highly respectable.

theman, as the first adventurer in ~~the~~ the
geology of Nova Scotia, deserves great credit; and
it cannot be doubted that every subsequent
observer has in some degree profited by his
labours. I have ~~never~~ ^{not} treated him dis-
respectfully, nor sought to deprive him of any-
thing which he could justly claim. Even when
I have been obliged to differ from his views,
I have carefully ~~not~~ avoided all personal
or injurious imputations. I have ^{endeavoured} ~~never~~ ^{at}
~~tempted~~ to exalt my own merits by disparaging
his, and even the provocations of his unwise
friend shall not ^{tempt} ~~induce~~ me to do so
now. My time is at present too valuable
to me to permit me to answer any ~~further~~
^{other} ~~more~~ anonymous attacks, unless they appear
to be of more general importance than my
personal reputation; but if a person feels ag-
grieved by anything I have published, and
brings forward his charges with his own signa-
ture, I shall endeavour to give him a res-
pectful answer.

I am yours &c
J. W. Dawson

Pictou, July 2, 1848.



to an eminent friend to whom I owe much, and
therefore deserve a brief notice. In his last para-
graph, your correspondent admits the existence
of an "apparent difference of opinion in regard to
the age and position of certain formations"; but he omits
to mention that this difference consists of an entire
new classification of the Carboniferous and New red
Sandstone formations of the province, which was the
principal result of Mr Lyell's labours here, and to
which that eminent geologist devoted an elaborate,
and in my opinion most conclusive paper. This
new arrangement is no theory of mine; I have no
~~further connection~~ claim no other credit in re-
lation to it, than that of having at Mr Lyell's re-
quest extended its application to many localities not
hinted by him; but I believe it to be one of the most
^{valuable}~~important~~ geological discoveries ever made in this pro-
vince; and that it has an important bearing on
the extent of many mineral deposits and must
lie at the basis of any future survey of the Coal fields.
For this reason I devoted more than half of my first
letter to an explanation of this new classification, and
have kept it in view throughout the series. It is
this classification that your correspondent pre-
sumptuously terms a disarrangement of Dr Jenner's
materials.

I do not hold Dr Jenner responsible for the
statements of your correspondent, and should be
extremely sorry to be obliged to do so. That gen-
eral