

2 Morris Street

Jersey City N.J. 5th March 1850

William Dawson Esquire

My dear Sir

I understand from my Boys who are at Dalhousie College that you have lately been lecturing at that institution. I have lately removed to this place I am engaged with some friends here who are the Proprietors of the Adirondac Iron Mines in the State of New York & the Steel works lately erected in this City where they are now successfully manufacturing Cast Steel from the Adirondac Iron superior to the best Sheffield make. The Crucibles or melting pots used at this establishment are chiefly made from Black Lead, the Coal used for melting being Anthracite no other description of Pot will stand the heat & the lead used requires to be of the best description or it will not stand. We therefore use a good deal of this article. When Mr Charles Archibald was here last Autumn he had with him a sample of Black Lead brought from Nova Scotia, which has been tried & has proved for this purpose to be of a good quality, not fusing at the time

Much interest in the matter, I felt it omitted to enquire from him from whence it came or if he named it I have forgotten the locality. It has occurred to me that in your Geological searches throughout the Province you may have met with some deposits of this Mineral & my object in addressing you now is to request you if such is the case, to have the kindness to send me one or two samples of any deposits that may be within your reach, or if you should know of any other at a distance if you would favour me with the locality, or the names of any parties near to, that I could communicate with that would forward me samples for the purpose of having the quality tested. Should a mine of the quality suitable for making Melting Pots be discovered it would doubtless be valuable, as there is an increasing demand for the article in this country. The finest description of Lead ^{as} ~~but~~ is most suitable for fine Pencils is not the most suitable for Crucibles. The Lead required for this purpose is of course granular texture, I shall feel obliged by hearing from you on this subject with this information of such deposits as may be within your knowledge.

I am my dear friend
Yours very respectfully

J. G. Archibald

Let
S. G. Archibald

