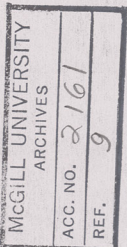


11. Harley St. London  
May 30. 1854

Dear Dawson

I returned a few weeks ago from a successful expedition to Madeira & the Canary Islands & when I have got out on paper on the results of my explorings in the field of Volcanic Geology, I will send you a copy. Meanwhile I write in reply to your last note to say that Prof<sup>r</sup> Owen was much interested with Dr. Seidly's account of the Prince Edward I. Sandstone which he said had decided Thecodont affinities as you first pronounced it to have. After all are we sure it is not Permian or Upper Carboniferous sandstone. As to ancient reptiles you are decidedly going ahead in Nova Scotia. I suppose you may already have read Prof. Owen's paper in the new Number of the Geol. Soc<sup>y</sup> Quart. Journ! on the fossil head which you presented from Picton to our Museum. Unluckily in my absence it was handed over as you will see by the Pres<sup>t</sup> to Owen without any intimation of its having been sent by you, so no mention is made of the donor & discoverer. I complained. The Abstrak Sec<sup>y</sup> apologized, & the others. I hope some opportunity will come of setting this right.

I may observe that Mr Rupert Jones first told me he suspected it to be reptilian. I believe he told E. Forbes who submitted it to Owen who tells me it is so near one of the genera of the Labyrinthodonts that he doubted whether it was not one. Indeed he still seems to doubt & at all events admits that this last made out of American reptile is of a higher grade than any reptile of equal antiquity previously known. I have long ago expected that Nova Scotia will disclose to us some wonders in its





its Carboniferous fauna -

I have just heard that Prof. Owen is to read a paper next Wed, at the Geol. Socy on a newly discovered mammiferous quadruped from the Purbeck beds - These beds are now clasped as the uppermost of the Oolitic & at the base of the Cretaceous. So as the Stonesfield animals were low down in the Oolite so is this higher up. Whilst neither in the true Weald freshwater nor in the overlying Cretaceous (Lower & Upper) has one single bone of a mammal marine or terrestrial or fluviatile been found.

Until therefore we know as much of the marine fauna of the carboniferous limestone, & the terrestrial fauna of the Coal, as we now know in Europe of the marine fauna of the Chalk & the freshwater & terrestrial fauna of the Weald we cannot say whether Mammalia did or did not exist. And when shall we know so much of the carboniferous land & sea animals. I fear not in our time. Believe me ever most truly yrs  
Chadwell.