

Edinburgh 20 July 1855

I duly received your favour of the 2nd inst
with two Bank one pound notes enclosed for which I
thank you.

The Government were not long in getting up
the Anti-Bris. Chae. after the deputation from the
Council waited upon them, and not without some
rather warm discussion, Sir E. Grey decided on
appointing Allman, which has been done ac-
cordingly, but under some conditions the precise
nature of which have not yet fully transpired.

So far as the war, it is something of this kind,
that if the Govt shall resolve on instituting a
separate Professorship of Geology, Allman shall
give up that branch. But when will that be?
The War, the War - this it is which ties up their hands
from endowing Science, although they feel no dif-
ficulty in giving large pensions to three generations
for war services - However, if in a few years (it may
be very few) the Govt should see reason to endow
a professorship of Geology, I certainly think you would
stand the best chance if you were willing to take it
and, if the Govt made a judicious arrangement, the

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geological chair in possession of an able and spirited
man might be made much the best of the two.
Who does not know that in this great commercial
and manufacturing country, geology and its kind-
red branches are of immensely more importance than
Zoology and the medical department? but in the
meantime, I have no doubt you will as opportunity
offers, enlarge your researches and knowledge in your
pursuits and they deserve additional pains
should a desirable opening occur. Your book
now published, will do much in this respect I have
no doubt.

On the 7th inst I sent a copy of your work
to Mr George Gray and another to the Duke of Argyll;
and wrote a few lines to each, and alluded to the clamour
said (by Dr. Dawson) to have been raised against
and defamatory you attempt to injure you thereby an unfounded allegation
you Mr George, through his Secy, sent the following reply
Whitehall 10 July 1855. Sir I am directed by Sir George
Gray to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th inst
and to thank you for Mr Quoy's work on "Median Geology"
which I am glad to have been so good as to send him - Mr George
Gray desires me to say that no representation has been
received by him in any way calculated to prejudice Mr
"Dawson" I am the Duke (whom you must know
is a bit of a geologist) acknowledged receipt in the following
terms. "Sir I am much obliged to you for having

been so kind as to send me a copy of Mr Dawson's
zoological work, "Acadian Zoology" which I shall read when
I have time, with much interest." July 9 - 1855.

Sir Charles Lyell wrote to me on the 12th, at which date
the chair was still vacant, and informed me that he had sent
me copies of the three of your work, to Mr Morris and another
with a note to the Lord Advocate. He further requested me
to send a copy of your work to Sir R. Murchison as from the
Author. I accordingly did so, and wrote on the leaf facing
the title page "with the Author's respectful compliments."

I have no doubt Sir C Lyell will write to you by this
mail and give you all the information he has as to the
terms and conditions on which Murchison has accepted the Chair.

My letter of the 6th would in all probability tend
to raise your hopes of success, as I confess my own were
considerably heightened - there was always this drawback
that we could never know certainly the true state of the case,
nor what the Govt were doing, but from the moment the
Council resolved on sending a deputation, and that the new
they selected were known to have shown no inclination towards
you - I feared that the Govt would be impelled to come
hastily to a decision and that the chances were rather against you.

The Scottish Press of Friday last which I send by this mail
has a pithy article on the subject, and I believe states the
matter truly, and has done justice to Sir C Lyell, to yourself,
and indeed to all concerned, some of them will not
feel much obliged to the Editor for his exhibition of them.

My only fear now, is, that in consequence of my
letter of the 6th coupled with James' that you may have

decided on coming over, which would now be a misfortune,
unless indeed the Brit. Association meeting of itself had secured
a sufficient inducement. As I mentioned having resolved
to retain the tent of clothes - I brought the parcel away from
O.P. - and again, after the Chair was decided, I would still
have sent it, but found the box was gone. By what can-
-ney and shall I now send your clothes? will you have any
package of goods going from Glasgow or Liverpool, with which
they could be enclosed? or must they wait for O.P. next box?

I do not know that there is anything else
I have to say at present, but shall immediately advise
you if I hear of any new movement relative to the
Chair.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Dawson and
yourself I remain
Very very sincerely
Peter Bell

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