

Albany April 19 1858

My Dear Prof Dawson,

I have been intending to write you a long letter ever since the meeting last August but, intending a long one, the time has never been found for other occupations. Your kind note through Mr Woolworth reminded me of my neglect.

To go back to the meeting and make a short account of what I intended to make anyone I wished to say to you how much annoyed I was for allowing myself to be persuaded to repeat my address, for although by request of the Local Committee it nevertheless could be made, & appear, by ill-natured persons for whom there are always to be found enough, as a censure upon the first arrangement,

Although I might have preferred
other arrangements in the outset I
felt no annoyance after the moment
before beginning - I have learned a
lesson, that it is not always prudent
to trust oneself to his friends - If you
heard what I said to the local committee
you could not doubt my feelings in
reference to my Canadian friends -
And I can happily say that I have
never in my intercourse on your
side of the line seen, heard or
felt anything that could give
me pain, or make me feel otherwise
than that I was treated in the most
frank, straight forward and honest
manner - In a manner that
makes me feel more proud
of my Anglo-Saxon origin and
relations than all I have
yet met in the United States -
And I do not mean to say this
in disparagement of any person or persons.

I am always very slow to suspect
or to see the drift and aim of suspicion
in others - unless success proceeds - and
therefore not infrequently permit myself
to be placed in an awkward position
by trusting to those I believe to be
my friends. And in this instance
it would have saved me many
hours of unpleasant retrospect had
I refused to accede to the wishes of
the Standing Committee - And there
is scarcely another act in a long time
which has so much annoyed me.
- I trust you will comprehend and
appreciate my explanation, which
is now much cooler and less forcible
than it would have been had
it been written within a few
weeks after the adjournment. It
is none the less felt however, and if
youself or any member of the Local
Committee has had cause to feel
offended I hope you may now understand my
feelings in regard to the affair

I have been for a month intending
to write you in reference to
the matter of Permian Rocks &
we have had some sheets lying
on my table from my Iowa
Report printed the end of July and
beginning of March - But for
my absence in Iowa these papers
would have been out a month
earlier. I have had these
fossils in my possession as
I have ^{since 1847} said and also the information
of the Gypsum beds and their
position since 1846, and intended
to bring out all I knew of these
rocks in the Iowa Report -
Mr. Meek had had from Mr. Howe
some fossils from Kansas &
both were anxious to keep it a
secret from me - as if I would
steal it apparently - I have
no doubt that Mr. Howe

received his information from
Meeh and that he - Hallow communicated the fact to Prof. Swallow &
thus has come the whole difficulty
which seems likely to end in a quarrel
as Mr Meeh has been for several days
engaged in preparing a reply to Mr.
Hallow's note in the paper of
Prof Swallow -

I had written some time
ago to Newsay some facts of this
matter nearly about the formation
and have said to him that I have
now no doubt but much of the
Upper Carboniferous limestone
formation which I described
in the report of the Mexican
Boundary Survey in 1856 is in
fact Permian - I regret now
that I did not make the fact
public when I first learned
it, but I waited for more
materials - You will see

from the page or two written what
were then my views - under the
head of Palaeontology I have made facts.

It occurred to me long since
in this connexion that you would
feel much interest in the
Nova Scotian formations since
called Permian and then determined
by Sir C. Lyell to be Lower Carboniferous.
Still with many Permian types.
Now I have examined the Lower
Carboniferous rocks of the west
very carefully and have seen
several hundred species of
fish and yet there are no
Permian forms or only such
as have great geol. & Geog. range
and therefore not reliable for any
purpose - I cannot believe
that you have so many ~~lower~~
~~Permian~~ Permian forms in Lower
Carbon rocks if there are parallel
to the Lower Carbon rocks of the west.

I have observed it is true that
as we go west we have as it
were, an ascent of fossils in the rock,
or those which in the east seem
confined to lower beds, are found
at a higher level at the west -
Still I cannot think so great a
duration to Permian types will
be found as this indicates, + looking
at the series of Lower Carb. limestone
at the west with their characteristic
fossils, when shall we place the ~~Permian~~
Scotia beds in parallelism?

You will see without further
discussion what I would say -
and it is that we should get made
a careful examination and collection
of the fossils from these eastern
lower carboniferous beds, with
a view to their comparison with the
lower carboniferous, ~~upper carboniferous~~
and Permian fossils of the west -

It would give me great pleasure
to make these comparisons and
as my collections from the
west are becoming very extensive
I should be pleased to have an
opportunity of making this comparison
and if you have no better
mode of disposing of the result
I will join you, if agreeable in
placing it before the public -

It will require time, but the result
will be quite worthy all we can do.

In reference to your Oribanum
and the fossils I will take them
up in connexion with the
third volume now in press
and you shall have the result
during the summer - it may
be as well that you have not
had them before, as I have much
that is interesting to add being

James Hall
April 1858

previous knowledge of this or any thing.

They you will excuse my hurried
writing - I am writing in haste and
at the same time am almost too ill
to sit up -

They you will accept for
Mrs. Dawson and yourself the
kind regards and remembrances
of Mrs. Hall myself and believe me
very sincerely
James Hall

Prof J. W. Dawson
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