

Prof Hall
May 1858

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	2211/20
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Albany May 20th 1858

my dear Sir,

Your favour of
the 17th is just now
recd - and falls in
the midst of a description
of a new *Strophodont*
& reply -

The simple history of the
Permian is this - I had
had the fossils in my
possession but had
not compared them till
my return from France
to the part of Liby where
I found that Mr. Meek
was at work on similar
fossils - we had in
1856 determined that
the Gypsum beds of the

Les moines, valley were
above the coal measures
and though I had expected
more information I had
nothing satisfactory -
My report was then going
through the press and I
incorporated the general
result as you see -

I presented Mr Meek's paper
to the Albany Institute
giving him full credit
as I believed, for having
been the first to identify
the Permian system
in the country.

Mr Meek and his friends
object that my notice
in the Report, not
yet published, is intended
to rob him, Meek of that
priority, and they made
an effort to get up a

quarrel in the meeting
at Baltimore - calling
on me & disclaiming
- I merely said that
I claimed nothing and
had therefore nothing to
disclaim, and referred
the matter into a discussion
- I have not allowed myself
to become excited about a
matter of so small importance,
but I have determined
to cancel the two offensive
pages of the Iowa Report
and to withdraw the
word Permian in
the Report at all, restoring
it to the condition it
was when made last
December - I prefer
therefore that you will
not allude to the Iowa
Report and even that you

quit my name in
speaking of the Penian
— I am so disgusted
with the matter that
I wish to hear nothing
of it for some time
& care at least —

I shall be glad to have
your opinion as to
whether my statement in
the printer sheet does claim
priority — I have submitted
it to two persons who do
not see such claim made
— However as I wish to have
my report a report of the
work done in 1846 & 1847 then
may be a propriety in leaving
it out —

after my present presence
is over at Bowdoin N. York
vols are out will feel
more free to examine your paper
thru my journal
Yours truly
James Hull