

Albany January 5<sup>th</sup> 1850

My dear Prof. Dawson

I am ashamed to have so long delayed to write you, but I came back late in the season from the west, and my collections, books, and papers were in progress of being moved to a new building, and every thing was in confusion -

I hope it may not be too late if you prefer it or will be equally pleased to have Mr Billings take the Nova Scotia fossils & I will send them to you at once on hearing from you - I will meet your wishes in any way, but as you have told me that Mr Billings is describing similar fossils, if I should now publish he might make it appear as an unfair attempt on my part to take precedence - and whatever course he or others choose to pursue towards me, I shall endeavor to avoid in reality if I cannot in appearance giving any foundation for such an opinion - I am very sorry



Des Moines valley, you will see that in 1856 we were aware of the apparent unconformity of the Gypsum beds, and that they were above the coal - This question had been discussed among us all, and I was hoping to get fossils from the localities, & those put into my hands by Mr Worthen in 1857 were of especial interest in this relation - In January 1858 when the chapter on Coal Measures was reached in the course of printing, I stopped the work for time to get something more on this point, and postponed the printing till I returned from Iowa city February. All this was well known to Mr Meek who as my Assistant should have joined me in the work, while instead of this he was secretly making use of all the facts, and with his knowledge of all the specimens in my collection which were almost specifically identical with those he published, he went on working in this manner to the end.

I have taken great pains to ascertain the facts in the case of Swallow and after going to Columbia and seeing his collections, I am satisfied (together with



that pressing duties and ill health have prevented me from sooner doing what would have been a pleasure to me and would have met your wishes. - but you ought not to love the notice of priority in discovery.

I fear you were put to excessive and unnecessary expense in receiving the Gowa Report - but you've met - I left directions that all for Canada should be sent in a package to Montreal, direct to Sir William, instead of which they were all sent with the European copies to the Smithsonian. It is probable there were many mistakes in the sending which I shall never know - I feel that it is my duty to refund the excessive expense.

You will see that after all I let the Permian go as it has been, though at first I decided otherwise - to have expunged it would have left ground for the charge made that I had attempted to anticipate Mr Meek. I have never thought it worth while to enter into this matter, but if you look at Mr Worthen's Report on the



his own statement) that it was not from any suggestion made by Mr Meek, that he (Swallow) and Shumard made the discovery that the fossils were of Permian types.

I refer to this matter since I once wrote you that I intended to expunge all that I had said in reference to the Permian system, and you will appreciate my reasons for not doing so.

With kind regards to yourself and Mrs Dawson, in which Mrs Hall joins I remain my dear son  
Yours very truly

James Hall

James Hall  
June 1860

