

Nov 14. 1868

- 89 Glo: M.

My dear Dawson

Thinking you would like to receive
the new subjects of thought that spring up in London
I sent you the other day a group of the Royal
Institution abstracts - To a man in your admir-
able but exhausting position such things are
very desirable - by way of suggestion -

I am much gratified to learn that you will notice
the Thesaurus in the address - and that W. Billings
will take the trouble of reviewing it - more so capable

Etheridge has reviewed it in the Geol. Magazine
quite to my satisfaction - and rather fully - in two
portions - one in the Nov. number and a second ^{to appear} in the
Dec. n^o. -

I think it most important to have Billings' good opinion
for it shows that I have been employing God's time not
= to well - and it will influence the American public -
Barraud, Carpenter, Joas, Murchison, Jefferys, Lyell
have spoken most handsomely about it -

So far it is selling well - and the edition is small.
When I know the persons to whom the Royal and Geolog-
ical Societies send gratuitous copies, I shall suppli-
ment in some instances their short comings - The dis-
tribution is not yet made - They have not yet dispersed

I sent a v. r. & some last Edition of Acadia to Mr.

Barraud's

of course he is thankful; especially for the flora part
of the book - in which he is specially interested -

He is a very remarkable man - must be a rapid
worker - employs a delineator and a copyist -
His plates are exquisite - I have been told that Henri
cinq pays for all. -

I am especially interested in the discovery in the
west of Oldhamia - not in the dawn of life, but midway
up the successive degustics - as will some day be seen -
David Forbes is very active here as a chemical geologist.
He has a good furnace side in the next street to us -
He has been made a member of the Geological dining
club - and is an active talker - a bright cheerful
man - I understand he has made a good deal of
money - I have not called on him - Our lines of
occupation are divergent - neither am I smart enough
for him. I have had my day - and a very merciful
day -

I am so closely in attendance on my dear wife - and
am so busy in putting together my plentiful material for
a *Traité des Dinosaures*, that I have no news from
the Geological world - I see failing health in Murchison
soon very plainly - but Lyell has recovered a good deal.
There is a considerable number of ardent and
hard working geologists rising up fast to occupy the
places of the falling heroes - and the enlarged staff
of the Survey (Bermyn Street) furnishes capital & work
for these young people - It is wonderful to me to see
Murchison, Lyell and Prestwich punctual in their places
every Wednesday - at Committee, dinner & evening meetings
taking an active & important part in the proceedings.

We had a heavy loss in Hamilton (Asia Minor Travels) &
a much heavier in who was by the
ante Darwinian - and made himself felt in every part
of the Geological Society - for good -

I am happy to inform you that the clever assistant
Secretary Jenkins is now Secretary to the Royal Agric-
-cultural Soc. at £600 per ann - with house, coal
and candle in addition. The Geological Society is
continually losing superior servants by false economy
in payments - It is saving money every year - and
has £4000-5000 in the funds. - Pass Saltus, the
facile Princeps of palaeozoic naturalists has broken
down in mind, in that very injurious way, that
we cannot tell whether the mental condition is mad
ness, or ordinary very disagreeable perversity - He
has been for many months at the Malacca water
cure - and is now very much better - It is gene-
rally believed that the unavoidable loss of his Scheldt
(Stamyn St) was caused by ~~it~~ ^a true break down of
mind - ~~This~~ which again was aggravated by it -
People pity him and his family - His wife is maintain-
ing herself by a school pretty well -

You will be glad to hear that my wife is weekly
improving in her sight - We have been for 2 weeks
at the sea side - This has done her general health
much good - She remembers your visit with
great pleasure - The Extraction of the Cataract she
has made it a peaceful summer - because of
her age and many infirmities -

I should having no literary geology to attend to

So intolerable that I determined to begin a *Thes. Darnoniensis* - and had taken Etheridge into partnership - but offering every assistance, he has since declined. He says that the augmented staff of fieldworkers send him in such boxes & baskets of fossils for his interpretation that in the day at the Museum - and at home at night he cannot get thro' his work - He is begging for an assistant - but I fear, in vain - He has given me his ^{private} MS. catalogue of all British Devonian fossils - nearly 3000.

I have already made a considerable advance & find that the list will be longer than the Silurian list. I think that a full acquaintance with the Devonian period will open interesting comparisons with other periods - and will have strong points of interest.

I do not expect that the *Thes. Darnoniensis* will sell as freely as the *T. Siluricus* - The *T. Silur.*, only ~~260~~ 260 pages cost £315 printing & binding - which seems very large - but every one says I have only been charged the usual prices - I shall try for £100 from the Royal Society - and probably fail for all these scientific Associations try to be very rich in money - and starve the branches of knowledge they are supposed to foster -

Give Billings my kindest regards & warmest thanks. Remember me to Logan & Hunt.

But above all to those dearest to yourself, Mrs Dawson, Annie, and George -

I am my dear Dawson
very sincerely yours

J. J. Bigsby

I shall use "*Acadia*"
& thankfully