

McGill College,
Montreal.

Sept 21, 1870

My dear Mr Patterson,

I have intended
for some time to write
a few lines to you, but
waited until I could
report as to three geological
sketches for the Service here,
of which we spoke with
at Macanlay. On my return
to Canada, when at Murray
Bay for a few weeks dredging
& exploring, I prepared a
sketch of them, and
since my return have
had four of them written
out and now in press

of copying. They will
elate to 1 The Genesis
of the Earth 2 The Corvix
Age 3 The Permian
Age & The Silurian Age
They have cost me
much thought in the
attempt to group the
leading facts in as
simple manner, yet to
avoid what is too tame
& unimportant, and to
bring out interesting deductions
& relations & broken times.
I do not know how
far I have succeeded; but
my purpose is that

the treatment of the
subject will be intelligible
to those who do not know
it, and fresh & popularly
useful to those who
do.

I propose according to
promise to send the first
three papers at least to
Dr McClellan early in October.

With regard to illustrations,
I had three of Lignier's books
to inaccurately and have
prepared one drawing to
illustrate each paper on
a plan of my own. Should
the expense of one medium
sized wood-cut for each
paper be an objection I can

Copy of
Patterns

substitute cuts selected
from books of which
electrotypes might be
got; but I would
prefer the original
ones much, as they are
different from the familiar
things in popular books,
and are fitted to give
accurate notions.

To save the trouble of
writing to Dr. McChesney perhaps
you will kindly mention these
points to him and say
that he may expect to
hear from me early in
October.

With all kind regards
Yours sincerely
W. Dawson

