

Merrell

Joggins Mines Cumberland N.S.,  
Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 1870.

Prof. J. W. Dawson;

Dear Sir;

Not having heard from you since the latter part of February when you proposed going to England, and thinking you may have returned and written me which I have not received I write to ascertain, and beside I wish to mention a fossil which I have heard from but unfortunately cannot obtain.

Three years ago, as Albert Mills of Rappo Reef was going to ~~Saint~~ Cove, he was stopped by the tide and while looking about the bank discovered a bone protruding from the rock which formed the bank. He afterwards showed it to George Mills & Rufus Mills, cousins. The bone was fast

in the bank and protruded three or four inches. It had decayed on the outside so that it could be crumbled off with the fingers, but the inside was white and solid as any bone. It was about the size of a man's wrist and nearly round, tho slightly flattened. They, thinking it curious that a bone should be embedded in the solid rock noticed it often and cut away much of it with their knives, having no knowledge that such things were of any value, but finding that I was collecting specimens they spoke of it. I immediately got Rufus to go with me to the place (eight miles below here + two below Shouli at "Lizgitbon head") but on arriving there we found the place much changed in three years having washed away by the tide, as the tide washed its way high water, ~~it~~ of course nothing of

could be found. It was embedded in a Stratum of "Pudding Stone" about twenty-feet deep resting on clay slate & the bone was some six feet above the slate. The stratum is formed of small water-washed stones of every color & variety - and was evidently once a water-washed beach, and no doubt the bone was washed in with the pebbles, for there is no sign of any table or drift matter beside. How far the bone extended into the bank, or how much had been worn off from the outer end they had no idea of.

I feel that its loss is much to be deplored, as with an hour or two of work it might have been secured.

The bone was solid, no hollow in the centre, which would seem to indicate that it was like the tusk of an elephant, if there was such an animal existing at so remote a period

as the Carboniferous.

There can be no question that this is as they represent as they are reliable men and could have no interest in a false statement. Among some specimens that I have collected this summer is a fine little nest of Bacteria Eggs, and a curious looking specimen of vegetable origin, which seems to have been a fruit or blossom, probably the former slightly resembling a single row of <sup>Indian</sup> corn, or the unripe blossom of the Mullin Stalk, apparently encased on three sides by leaves like corn husks. I would like to have these things examined by competent Geologists, for they may be of interest.

Please write me as soon as convenient & let me know about the jaw of Baphet's etc. If you write so as to reach me by the 20<sup>th</sup> Oct direct Joggin ruins, but after that to Elma Maine.

Very truly Yours  
J. A. Morrill

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