

Montreal Feb. 23. 1871

Ans^d

Dear Wesley

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Feb 23
I have been all winter proposing to write you about divers matters. but have found no time. To-day I am waked up by reading of a bill brought into the Penna. Legislature for a geol. survey, with you at its head. 'tis a grand thing for science. I have been poring over Hagen's reports on the Crystalline rocks of S. E. Penna. till I have got to the bottom of him & believe he is nearly all wrong. I have some papers of critical analysis written on the matter. The superstrata slate-schists are not part primary & part altered primary but all primary. The mica-schists & gneiss &c. they are respectively green Mt. & White Mt. rocks, as South Mt. is Laurentian. This is my interpretation of the facts as given by H. D. Rogers - I discuss in my Indianapolis address the whole history of our Appalachian Crystalline schists from the days of Dalton down to the present. Then I take up the genesis of these rocks, i. e. their chemical & mineralogical history. All is written now, wants only a few additions & re-touchings - Something of Mesozoic was required. My views on the latter point, for a long time decried, are now maintained by Naumann & by Credner & Gümbel -

Now for another matter. Do you want me as an assistant in case your survey goes on? I am sick of this place. Sir Wm has resigned, as you know, will never do much more. Besides he is getting very strange & jealous. Selwyn named in his stead. Knows very little except what he learned with Ramsay in 1850 - 52 in N. Wales, where the work done is looser than that of Rogers, ^{in similar rocks} at the same time. We have no science left, except poor B. sadly enfeebled by his unfortunate habits, and myself, sick of Canada. I feel that if I can once get my foot in the U. States again, I shall take the position which is mine by right, & that my experience of 24 years belongs now not to Canada but to my own

Great copy of your letter when you see him - I took a great liking to him last August - I would have seen him often

taking native land. Taking it away from the Canadian look upon
as a pious act: spoiling the Egyptians! - I shall be glad to come
by an chemist, mineralogist, also lithologist what not. My
time has you know been greatly given to the economics of Canada
as the chapter on that subject in our volume shows - all my work
I am now busy with soon, as you saw in the notes you were
good enough to reprint in the Mining Register. The Report to
which these belong is just out you will get a copy from
the post in a few days. Perhaps some chair may be open to
me in Philadelphia if I can combine the two functions.

Mr. B. Rogers has recommended me to fill the vacant chair
of geology, which he has just left in the Tech. Institute in
Boston. & the Managers are talking about it, but can
only give \$2000 ²⁵⁰⁰ If I can get something to do with you for
the 5 months vacation I work up my materials in Boston that
would do in case Phila. cannot give me a home all the
year round. I state you my case plainly, and hope
you will answer me as plainly. You know whether you
want me or have any place for me, and you know that
there is no one with whom or under whom I would so gladly
work as with you. Let me have a word from you soon.

Sir William is in England, but plans ^{spending} the summer in Newfoundland.
Lawson is well & hard at work. Young Bartley from Yale,
an assistant from whom I looked for much aid, died last Nov. in
N. Scotia. Broome, an assistant who came to me 12 months since
from London, has gone mad and is in an asylum at Toronto.
Old Mr. Barlow, our chief Cartographer, has a paralytic stroke.
All things say to me. depart!

Give my best regards to Mrs. Lesley. I keep religiously the hand
kerchief she marked with my name at La Tour, in memory
of her kind care during my illness. faithfully yours
J. P. Lesley Esq. 7. Sterry Hunt