

Joggins Mines Cumberland  
Nova Scotia Apr 12<sup>th</sup> 1871.

Prof Dawson,

Dear Sir:

I found yesterday in a reef on the shore the impression of the ribs of some large animal, but in such a state that they cannot easily be removed. The cast is very plain indeed, and shows about thirty ribs, which are only terminated at each end by a break & washing away of the reef. They occupy a distance on the reef of about four and a half feet in length. In the place where the spine should be it is indistinct. The ribs decrease in size towards the shore end of the reef &

towards the head probably of the  
uphill, or whatever it might be.

The widest of the ribs are about  
2½ inches, and the greatest  
length which shows in the stone  
is about two or two + a half feet,  
and the curve is perhaps the sixth  
part of a circle. There appears  
to be no sign of any bony part of  
the substance left, as the sea  
has washed over it probably for  
a year or more. The stone where  
ribs left their imprint has a  
lead colored glazed appearance  
while the <sup>space</sup> between the ribs shows  
that the sand had been pressed into  
the spaces as lime is pressed  
through the cracks in plastering  
the room. The whole cart  
has been affected by frost so that  
it cannot be removed whole without  
taking much time and labor

tho it might be accomplished  
by working around it and taking  
out a piece which would  
weigh a ton or such a matter.

From the general appearance  
of the stone it is evident that  
the skeleton lay on the soft sand  
and bedded itself in, as the  
seams of the stone follow the  
curve of the ribs. I think  
that this must certainly be or-  
ganic, as I can think of  
nothing else that could  
make the cast so exactly  
resemble the skeleton of  
some animal.

Please drop me a line  
in ref. to this matter & oblige

Yours very truly  
W. A. Munnell

Wm  
Wells

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211 / 34
REF. 16