

Yarmouth, N. S. - June 21. 1871.

L. D. Dawson

Dear Sir

Thinking you might take an interest in the subject, and that the late storm may not have extended to Montreal, I take the liberty of sending you a sample of rain-dust that fell here in very large quantities on the night of Sunday June 4, completely covering the pools in many places. It is generally considered by the ignorant as Sulphur, as remarks in the Papers indicate, and had I been confined themselves to the colour we could pardon them, but when they assert that it not only looks but smells like Sulphur we must suppose that they either did not examine it at all, or were not acquainted with the delicious perfume arising from the burning of common matches. I have failed to distinguish the Mustine smell.

Under the Microscope this substance has the appearance of being made up of particles of a globular form, either entirely circles or somewhat indented, as an apple, a heart, or a kidney, owing probably to the different directions in which they are viewed,

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but as I am not expert in such observations I may be altogether misled by

False appearances. I suppose they may be considered as microscopic organisms, taken up in some tropical country by circular storms, as described by Maury in the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Physical Geography; or Pollen from the great western Prairies which would now be in full bloom, or from the American Pine Forests. It would be interesting to me to have the opinion of some one better versed in such matters than myself. The fall occurred in the night during a very severe rain storm, accompanied by heavy thunder, lightning and hail. The water-casks and small pools were in the morning found covered with the yellow substance.

The only case resembling it that I ever heard of in this Country (altho' there may have been many) happened in Liverpool in 1864 within 5 days of the same time of year. My Brother then sent me a specimen, which from lying about my Surgery ever since has become nearly all lost. I enclose you half of what is left. It appears to be entirely identical with that of June 4. I know nothing more of its history than is contained in my Brother's letter of May 30. 1864, and is as follows:

"I enclose a sample of a substance which in my rides today I found spread over the roads, not in one locality but in

different directions from town. It rained heavily yesterday, & today the roads are strewn with this substance very much resembling sulphur. It was thickest on the edges of the ruts in the road, where it seems to have floated when the ruts were full of water, but had lodged on the edges when the rain had run off or soaked into the ground. It was so plentiful that I could see it from the waggon some little distance ahead as I drove on. It is also observable on the inside of the rain-water casks, where it has stuck to the side when the water was partially bailed out. Can you tell me what it is?"

Not wishing to be troublesome, and hoping I will not be considered so, I am

Yours very sincerely,  
G. J. Parish.

D. Dawson.

from Lower Granville, Annapolis county, says that during the thunder storm of Saturday night week, the people residing in the vicinity of Annapolis Gut "witnessed the phenomenon of a waterspout hurling the water far up into the air," and that "on Monday morning, the ground, for some distance around, was covered with hailstones of the size of peas, and the fields were yellow with a substance resembling and smelling like sulphur. Pails of water that remained out during the night were covered with the same substance."

There was a shower of sulphur in New Brunswick on Sunday night, and another shower on Tuesday night. The inhabitants are getting scared.

**SULPHUROUS RAIN.**—Last week an electric cloud broke over Keith and Fife Keith, in a sulphurous rain-pour. The water tanks gave evidence of this phenomenon, not only by the smell, but by a covering of sulphur as thick as a sixpence. The little pools by the wayside were all similarly covered.

From a N. S. Paper of June 1871. — From a N. S. Paper of June 1871. — From a Scotch Paper of 1866. —

I have received your letter of the 10th  
 and am very glad to hear that you  
 are still in the city. I have  
 been very busy lately but  
 will try to get some time  
 to see you soon. I have  
 not yet decided on the  
 date but will let you know  
 as soon as I can. I am  
 very much interested in  
 the work you are doing  
 and hope to see you  
 very soon. I am  
 very much  
 yours  
 J. P. [unclear]

J. P. [unclear]  
 June 1911

Not writing to the [unclear] and hoping I  
 may be considered as I am  
 Yours very sincerely  
 J. P. [unclear]