

Natural History Society.

Montreal, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 1871.

Dear Sir,

I arrived in town early last Sunday morning, after an absence of 8 weeks, of which I spent the greater part in dredging, with very fair results indeed.

Since my return, my attention has been called to advertisements in the Toronto papers, inviting applications for the post of Professor of Natural History at University College, Toronto, the applications to be forwarded so as to reach Toronto on the 6<sup>th</sup> of ~~the~~<sup>next</sup> month.

I have sent in an application in the manner indicated in the advertisement, together with all the testimonials I had ~~with~~ by me. With the single exception of one from Dr. Hunt, all my testimonials are from England & date back as far as eleven years ago.

W. L. Mearns  
copy

As I write Dr. Smallwood is the only officer of our Society (of as high a rank as Vice President) in town.

In my application I stated that I had devoted ten years to the exclusive study of Canadian Natural History, that I had worked for this society for more than 8 years. I further said that I

thought I could refer (with confidence) to the President, Officers & members of the N. H. S. for their opinion as to the work I have so far done in this country, & as to my fitness for such ~~an~~ a position as the one for which I have ventured to become a candidate. Still I have no such testimonials &

the time to get them is very short. May I venture to ask that you would kindly give me, as President of the N. H. S., a written expression of your opinion on the work which I have done

in Canada for the last ten years (~~to the~~ at a great sacrifice of my own material interests) also as to my capabilities as a lecturer on Zoology, paleontology or botany. In case the opinion should be a favourable one, I propose to send it to Toronto, together with any others <sup>testimonials</sup> that I may be able to obtain in the city. May I beg the favour of an early reply to this communication, as it is of much importance to me.

The dredging was very successful, somewhere about 50-60 species of invertebrates new to our fauna were got. We dredged successfully up to 250 fathoms & at that depth brought up as much as 7 bucketfulls of mud at a time. In one haul got 40-50 living *Penmatula* - 6 inches or more long; in crabs two species of the *Pycnogonida*; a heart

urchin (*Amphidotus?*) living at 175 fathoms, plenty of  
*Ctenodiscus*, a single Asterid new to me, 3 additional  
*Ophiura*: in shells,

*Pecten Groenlandicus*. frequent.

*Leda pygmaea*. (not *minuta*) alive.

" *thraciiformis*. alive

" *lucida?* *Loven?*

*Astarte crebricostata* Vanother new to me both abundant.

*Neera cuspidata*. alive & of large size

*Orca raridentata* (alive) new to America

*Tellina* new to me.

*Dentalium* two species alive.

*Margarita* (new sp.)

*Fusus* (*Sipho*) new. alive.

*Terebratalina septentrionalis*.

*Terebratella Spitzbergensis*. &c. &c.

Two *Astrophytons*, many shrimp like crustaceans, large  
numbers of curious marine worms, gigantic *Trochoculinae*  
& *Dentalinae* &c. &c. Not many sponges, No crinoids or  
only one very little one.

Respectfully & sincerely yours,  
J. F. Whiteaves.