

Mrs Lach. Hillside

Chathamway Basin.

Feb 15th 1876.

Copy

Dr Dawson

Respected Sir.

During a late visit to Boston I spent a very pleasant morning with some scientific friends in the Natural History Rooms, and felt a little chagrin when questioned regarding Dr Dawson that I could ^{only} say I knew him by reputation and had lately procured his last work "The Dawn of Life".

But said friends. "Does he not patronize the Entomological Society as part of the Natural History?" I was obliged to confess such was not the case, and in my own mind doubt if you know of its existence. These remarks have induced me since my return to venture to write to you unauthorized, an account of the

little band of enthusiasts who struggle along in the city, barely keeping alive and lacking the encouragement they deserve. About two years ago my husband (a large fruit-grower here) decided to join the newly formed Society for practical reasons, and since then the members have had their Dominion Day-field day with us. An account of the last is to be seen in the Canadian Entomologist No 12 (December) also a list of Lepidoptera caught that day. My boy of 14 is a member and has quite a collection of insects. The members pay three dollars a year, and ~~as~~ do not think there are a dozen paying members altogether. I am not sure as to the amount paid for the use of one of the rooms in the Natural History building, but know that this month they could not

aff [redacted] to pray and meet at the house
of the President to ~~see~~ ^{secure} the triple
required, as they are ambitious
to buy a few books.

Dear Sir. Your many cares may make
this appear a small matter and I might-
never have gathered courage to write to
you but for the questions of my Boston
friends. Is there any way in which
this science can be encouraged in the
Commonwealth? I know one or two of the
members have good collections, in fact
superior to the department Coleoptera and
Lepidoptera that I saw from home
but if it could become a part of
the whole, and be recognised and
encouraged, much good might
result.

I had a letter yesterday from a friend
a daughter of James Freeman Clarke's of

Boston, in it she says.

"Our professor in Lithology teaches us that Cozoïn Canadense is a mineral and calls it the preudo fossil. We had a prize given us. It was from Massachusetts and not Canada."

I mailed to her today "The Dawn of Life" a book that has given me sincere pleasure.

Please excuse me for the intrusion, on behalf of the society. Entomological, but I feel assured that your notice and encouragement would cheer the few earnest workers who are striving amid obstacles. Will it surprise you if I confess that I have never been in any Natural History rooms in Montreal though living for 16 years in the vicinity and do not know if they are free or accessible.

Respectfully yours

Annie S Jack,

My address is,

Mrs Robert Jack,
Hillside,

Chateaugay Basin,
Province of Quebec,