St John N.B.
17 April '87

Dear Sir William

It is rather venturesome to express an opinion as to age on a single species, unless you know it well, so I hope you will take what I say with a grain of allowance for possible error in placing together parts which may be of different species and also for my imperfect knowledge of anything outside of the St John Lower Cambr. Supposing however that the head pygidium and thorax you send belong together I should say they were part of a Solenopleura. It may be compared with S. holometopa, but the eyelobes are more strongly indrawn, and also more so than in any species we have here. From its resemblance to the species named I would conjecture that it may come from the highest part of the Lower Cambrian. Billings figures a species from Newfoundland under the name of Bathyuriscus gregareus which has much wider cheeks and which, if correctly placed by the discoverer (McKay), belongs ~~[illegible]~~ lower down in the Paradoxides beds. Pal. Foss Vol I, p. 363. There is a cast of a head of a Ptychoparia in the fossils sent, but the other parts may all belong to one species. (the Solenopleura)

I do not know where to look for the descriptions you speak of of the fossils from L'Islet described by Billings. I think it is a misfortune that Billings described so many ~~things~~ species from mere fragments, as it makes so much unsatisfactory literature to go over in studying the Cambrian. The rich localities from which his material came should be reworked on the Scandinavian plan, which is now followed in the U.States to such great advantage - viz: The palæontologist should see the measures which he is to study and collect ~~for himself~~ from them. (himself)

I regret that I shall not be able to go early enough to accept your kind invitation to stop on my way up to Ottawa. I cannot leave here until Monday evening. But on my return from the Meeting I shall be glad to visit the Museum and look over the fossils to which you allude. I would take pleasure in examining the fine collections there in any case.

I have not struck any true graptolitic horizons in our Cambrian, and do not know of any in New Brunswick except those in Carleton County and the corresponding range of slates in Maine.

These have not received any attention from competent observers, but they are supposed to be of the Trenton period and Clinton ~~that~~ in Carleton; that in Maine would probably be Trenton (about) i.e. Hudson R.

We have not done anything at the making of casts of the large trilobites as I have been very busy and wish to get information as to the best method of proceeding before undertaking the work. I somewhat trust to inquiries at Ottawa to help me with hints.

A week or two ago I sent you a copy of abstract of my article from which you will see result of comparison of Lower Cambrian fauna on the two sides of the Atlantic and would also refer you to an article in the May No. of the Am. Jour. Sci. on the Kin of Paradoxides Kjerulfi

X

Hoping to see you within a fortnight I remain

Yours very truly

G. F. Matthew.

P.S. You might ask Mr Currie to have the fossils from S. Simon ready in case I have time to call on my way to Ottawa.

P.P.S. I will bring the fossils up with me when I come.

Matthew
Solemplem
Metis

Matthew
May 7/89

Solemplem
Metis