

Camp
Sept 1876

V.S. Whiteaves has been appointed. Dr. Craik says he rec^d. a telegram from Ottawa to that effect.

67 Bonaventure Street
Montreal, Aug. 25, 1876

My dear Dr. Dawson,

I am very sorry that my letter miscarried. I suppose the mistake occurred on account of having addressed it to the Nat. Hist. Soc. I am pleased that you intend to consider my suggestion - that is, if Mr. Whiteaves is appointed to fill late Mr. Billings' Chair. I have had placed in my hand to day, a pamphlet containing a number of testimonials in his favour - some of the latter are addressed to the Director of the Survey. Mr. Whiteaves appears to be working hard for the position, and as I am led to understand, is quite sanguine

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shrine of success. I notice a remarkable sentence in the testimony from Dr. H. H. Miles of Quebec, which is as follows: — "One noted result of his labors being his admirable arrangement, Classification and description of the Collection in the Museum of the Mont. Nat. Hist. Soc., which is regarded by competent Canadian judges, as well as by scientific visitors from abroad, as one of the very best and most useful public Collections to be seen any where on this Continent."

Now, I can assure you that I cannot agree with this testimony, as the Ornithological Collection in the Museum of the Nat. Hist. Soc. of Montreal is in a sad state of confusion. The Classification is

Ancient many of the groups are misplaced, and some of the birds are wrongly named. This I can prove, and have shown to those having a knowledge of Classification. Yet Mr. Whiteaves has been 13 years connected with the Institution as Scientific Curator, and all this time failed to keep up with the progress in Ornithology. I merely make this statement as showing how easily a man may be led to write a statement in favour of another, in good faith, while virtually his judgment is the result of integrity without a critical knowledge of the material in question.

Trusting you will excuse me for troubling at such length
I remain yours truly
Jm Couper