

Boston Nov. 4. 1876

Dear Dr. Dawson

I send you at last a copy of the Circular as just printed & printed. I embodied your suggestion in a somewhat modified form in II. & hope you will be pleased with the Circular as it stands. I sent last week proof sheets to Nature & Forch. Mag. with a request to notice it. also to Amer. Jour. Sci. & E. & Mining Journal -

I send you Morse's clever reply to Dr. Cook - I send last week to the Soc. Nat. Hist. a short notice of the Quebec paper, reiterating the proofs I have long since given that the whole of Lyell's work is wrong in that region. I shall soon send it you in proof. The French Circular is in type & the German in hand. - pray to come back & believe me with best regards faithfully  
Principal Dawson

## TO GEOLOGISTS.

THE activity which has prevailed in the study of geology within the past generation has given to it a great importance both in a scientific and an economic point of view, and has resulted in a large accumulation of facts and materials. Workers in different countries have however pursued their labors to a great extent, independently of each other, and have given their results in such ways that it is often difficult to coördinate them. Those geologists from Europe and America who have been at the International Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876, have found there important collections of geological maps and sections, with rocks and organic remains from various regions of North and South America, as well as from many countries of Europe, and they have become deeply impressed with the great advantages to be gained by their comparative study. It was moreover evident that the bringing together of a still larger number of such collections in accordance with a previously arranged plan, could not fail to lead to important results for geological science. The INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION to be held at Paris in 1878 will furnish such an occasion, and it is proposed to invite to that end governmental geological surveys, learned societies and private individuals throughout the world, to send to Paris such collections as will make the geological department of that exhibition as complete as possible.

In order to take advantage of the collections which may thus be brought together it is moreover proposed to convoke an INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS, to be held at Paris at some time during the Exhibition of 1878, and to make that Congress an occasion for considering many disputed problems in Geology.

In accordance with this plan it is proposed that the Geological department of the International Exhibition of 1878 shall embrace:



I. Collections of crystalline rocks, both crystalline schists and massive or eruptive rocks, including the so-called contact-formations and the results of the local alteration of uncrystalline sediments by eruptive masses. In this connection are to be desired all examples of organic remains found in crystalline rocks, including Eozoon and related forms. These collections should moreover comprehend all rare and unusual rocks of special lithological, mineralogical and chemical interest, examples of ore-deposits and of veinstones of all kinds, with their encasing rocks. As far as possible these collections should be limited to specimens of a size convenient for examination, and be accompanied with sections prepared for microscopic study. In the arrangement of all these materials regard should be had to their natural associations rather than to theoretical notions or artificial classifications, so that they may be studied not only petrographically but geognostically.

II. Collections illustrating the fauna and the flora of the paleozoic and more recent periods, particularly of such horizons as present a more critical interest to paleontologists from the first appearance or the disappearance of important groups of organic forms. It has appeared to the Committee named below that the organic remains of the Cambrian, Taconic or so-called Primordial strata merit especial attention in this connection.

These various collections should be explained as fully as possible by labels, catalogues, monographs and maps.

III. Collections of geological maps, and also of sections and models, especially such as serve to illustrate the laws of mountain structure. In the geological maps regard should be had to various questions which deserve the special consideration of the Congress, such as the scales best adapted for different purposes, the colors and symbols to be used, and the proper mode of representing superficial deposits conjointly with the underlying formations. A discussion of these will prepare the way for improved general geological maps of the continents.

In pursuance of the above plan the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE during its annual meeting at Buffalo,

under the presidency of Prof. William B. Rogers, unanimously adopted the following resolution on the 25th of August, 1876.

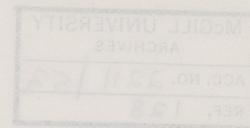
*Resolved*, That a Committee of the Association be appointed by the Chair to consider the propriety of holding an International Congress of Geologists at Paris during the International Exhibition in 1878, for the purpose of getting together comparative collections, maps and sections, and for the settling of many obscure points relating to geological classification and nomenclature. And that to this Committee be added our guests, Prof. T. H. Huxley of England, Dr. Otto Torell of Sweden, and Dr. E. H. von Baumhauer of the Netherlands, who shall be requested to open negotiations in Europe looking to a full representation of European geologists at the proposed Congress. The said Committee to consist of Prof. William B. Rogers, Messrs. James Hall, J. W. Dawson, J. S. Newberry, T. Sterry Hunt, C. H. Hitchcock and R. Pumpelly in behalf of the Association, with the addition of Prof. T. H. Huxley, Dr. Otto Torell and Dr. E. H. von Baumhauer.

On the same day, at a meeting of the Committee, Prof. James Hall was elected Chairman, and Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, Secretary. It was then resolved to prepare the present circular, to be printed in English, French and German, and distributed to geologists throughout the world, asking their coöperation in this great work of an INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION and an INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS to be held at Paris in 1878; the precise date of the Congress to be subsequently fixed.

All those interested in this project are invited to communicate with any one of the following members of the Committee:—

PROF. T. H. HUXLEY, LONDON, ENGLAND,  
 DR. OTTO TORELL, STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN,  
 DR. E. H. VON BAUMHAUER, HARLEM, HOLLAND,  
 DR. T. STERRY HUNT, BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, Sept., 1876.





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Under the patronage of Prof. William B. Rogers, unanimously adopted the following resolution on the 25th of August, 1878:

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- Prof. T. H. HUXLEY, London, England,
  - Dr. OTTO TORELLI, Groningen, Holland,
  - Dr. E. H. VON HAUMAILIER, Berlin, Holland,
  - Dr. T. STERRY HUNT, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.
- Boston, Massachusetts, Sept., 1878.