

Ellis

Cobourg, Feb. 17, 1877

Dr Dawson,

Dear Sir,

I have got mixed up in a controversy about Eozoon Canadense. My opponent, a German geologist, denies that it is a fossil, affirming that he has never seen a specimen which distinctly showed organic structure.

I unfortunately am not possessed of a specimen which, when decalcified will show the "tubuli" once occupied by the sarcod's prolongations; so I take the liberty of asking you for a small piece which will show this structure, trusting that perhaps you could spare me one without injury to your collection.

I am very sensible of the strange request I make & the awkward position in which I place myself, but the possibility of

having to yield a point, of whose truth I feel convinced, urges me to ask a favor from a man whom I have never seen. The circumstances in which I am placed must be my excuse for this letter,

If you can grant the favor I have asked you would much oblige by sending - per express, at my expense, to

Your obt. servt,

W. S. Ellis
(Cobourg, P.O.)