

MCGILL UNIVERSITY	
ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	2211/61
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1.

Everett, Mass., June 12, '78.

Dear Sir

I had the pleasure of spending several weeks, during the summer of '76, in your Province. In one of these weeks, in company with a resident of Sutton, Brome Co., I made a pedestrian tour from the north part of that township, over the mountains to the adjoining township of Bolton. You are aware that the westerly Green Mountain Range after crossing the Province Line from Vt. bears N.E. through the S.E. corner of Sutton to a point, say 5 miles from the Frontier; thence E. for 3 miles, then N.E. along the lines of the two townships to line of Brome and Bolton.

You are also doubtless aware, that from

the north line of these townships, Sutton & <sup>Pitt</sup> southward along either slope of the mountains, to within two or three miles of the Frontier is an unbroken forest, varying in width.

As this range or rather system (for there is a double range for much of the way) approaches Brome & Bolton lines, there are three notches in close proximity to one another; the northern quite difficult of access, on account of the abrupt steep fall on either side; the southern, quite easily entered and traversed; the Central, and much the largest quite easily entered on the west side of the <sup>mountains</sup>

Passing through this notch <sup>the head of</sup> about 4 o'clock P.M., Aug. 15, '76. we reached a deep narrow ravine, running at an angle with the course of the Notch or Pass.

The bottom of the ravine was covered with irregular boulders at various intervals from each other, but the upper surfaces <sup>and sides</sup> covered, as were the steep sides and south, end wall of the

ravine with rich, thick moss. The south sides  
 of three or four of the boulders at the head of the  
 ravine were tilted up, so as to form a considerable  
 angle with the end wall of the ravine, (I should  
 mention that this end wall is somewhat  
 projecting at the top), under each of these  
 three or four was a bank of ice several feet  
 long, and at the foot of the bank a small  
 pool of water.

Between these boulders and the end  
 wall, was a <sup>thin</sup> curtain of mist. Looking up  
 from the floor of the ravine, we could just see  
 the Sun, a dim light through the thick  
 tree tops, the top of the cliff being also partly  
 interposed.

# 4.

We followed <sup>the</sup> this ravine, stepping from boulder to boulder for a mile, I should judge, and found that its entrance was at the top of a <sup>steep</sup> high <sup>steep</sup> wall of rock, nearly vertical, which rose from a wooded basin of a creek whose sources were on the east slope of the mountain. This wall of rock being, of course a section of the <sup>mt. slope on</sup> south side of this basin.

Ascending the west bank of the ravine, we travelled <sup>westward</sup> along the ridge until we found a place where we could descend into basin. We then passed along the base of the ridge until we reached the foot of steep wall which rises from the alluvial bottom to the floor of the ravine.

At the base of this wall a little stream of cold water issues forth, a feeder of the meadow brook.

I found that while many of the farmers on either side of the mountains

had heard of any ice-glen or of a ravine answering to the description I gave <sup>you</sup> none had seen it.

Polton said, that twenty years ago, his father in company with a man named Jacobs, while <sup>exploring</sup> the notch with a view to locating the a mountain road between the townships came upon the chasm in Sept. A Carpenter in Sutton declared, that, while hunting in May on the mts., he saw the glen with ice <sup>within</sup>.

I would add that the Carpenter several years before, when I was in Quebec, mentioned that he had seen ice in the mts. in the summer, while he was hunting, though he did not attempt to describe the spot where he saw it.

I have no more reason to doubt the assertion of either man, than I have my own statement.

over.

The ice having been seen there in May, August and Sept., some portion of it may fairly be assumed to be there throughout the year.

Perhaps the rays of the Sun never fall directly upon the ice, being intercepted by the tops of the cliff and of the boulders; the moss and mould with which the upper side of the boulders and sides of the chasm are covered ~~absorbs~~ readily the heat of the rays that fall upon; this heat is appropriated by the moss and by the mould for the moss. Little is radiated, and that slowly; possibly enough to melt the ice at the thin edges.

But this ice-glen is only one of the many objects

of interest which this grand, old forest mountain region affords; e.g. a cataraact in a mountain stream, branch of the Yameska, where, for hundreds of feet, obliquely, the stream has worn its way through the schist and through a broad vein of quartz in the schist, a dozen feet wide; a pond at the west-entrance of the north notch in the midst of a quiet like that of a perpetual Sabbath, with a broad mossy tract around it, cranberry vines peeping through and tracks of deer around.

But my Dear Sir I will not weary you; I received a call the other day from a young gentleman of your City, a former pupil of mine. The conversation which we then had, concerning

my last summer <sup>8</sup> <sup>Ewert</sup>  
P.Q. suggested to me <sup>Teach</sup>  
idea of writing <sup>June 18</sup>  
I should ~~like~~ <sup>be</sup> an  
honor to receive at your  
convenience a reply.

Please to receive an <sup>expression</sup>  
of profound respect from

Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup>.

J. W. Dawson, A. J. Bennett,  
H. Q. Teachers.

P.S. I have in my cabinet  
from the townships mentioned  
fine specimens of Copper sulph.,  
iron sulph., mucaceous iron,  
magnetite (fine crystals), ilmenite  
talc, Chlorite and quartz  
crystals.

A. J. B.