

Rio de Janeiro ^{Derby}
April 3/880

Dr. J. W. Dawson,

Dear Sir,

Returning a short
time ago from a trip in the interior
I received Mr. Rathbun's letter
with the note you kindly furnished
on the fragments of limestone sent
from the São Francisco. The note
is so encouraging that I ventured
to trouble you again, this time
with more abundant material,
although my stock of specimens of
these limestones is small and the
material sent is not so large as I
could wish. My specimens from
Oraman were unfortunately lost
so I must wait for a fresh stock
that I have sent for. From the Para-
hyba locality most of the specimens
are somewhat altered but I succeeded

in finding a tolerably good specimen
larger than those sent before. There
are also some chips from a new
locality which although it does not
look to me, who knows nothing about
Eggs, very promising resembles
strongly some parts of the rock
at Cranman.

There are a number of local-
ities along the Parahyba which have
never been examined and I intend
to take the first opportunity of ex-
amining all of them. Perhaps you
can give me some hints that will
be of service in this examination
Hencefore I have only had a sort
of pious hope of finding the
fossil and have not collected
with special reference to it.

The specimens go in the hands
of a passenger to New York and

will be forwarded by mail or express
from there.

As soon as additional material
is received from Crumman I will
forward it together with a note
on the geological position of these
limestones.

You suggest that the rock from
the two localities may belong to
different series. The gneisses in both
have the same general appearance
but in the northern region syenite
and a peculiar silico-feldspathic
rock abounds which, so far as I
know, have not been met with in
the south. The stratigraphy of these
ancient rocks have been a little
studied and is so difficult that
even in a limited region it is
difficult at present to say what is
the older part of the series from strati-

graphical considerations alone.

I trust that you will find the specimens of sufficient interest to excuse my troubling you, and if there is anything you wish from Brazil I will be glad to be of service.

Yours truly

Owille A. Derby

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