

BALL & BATES,  
3 COMMERCIAL ST.,  
BOSTON.  
Private & Confidential

Boston, March 30, 1881

Dear Sir:

Some friends of mine in Newfoundland having mining interests on which Alexander Murray, Esq. F.G.S. has reported favorably, to their surprise find that Mr. Murray is not a recognized ~~an~~ authority, or even known, in the United States. In conversation with Prof. Richards of Boston School of Technology today he stated that while he did not know Mr. Murray either personally or by reputation he did know Prof. Dawson. This induced me to address you and ask if you are acquainted with Mr. Murray, if so what you can say as to his standing and reputation as a geologist and mineralogist and the weight which should attach to his official reports. Being familiar with Newfoundland I am already convinced in my own mind, in reference to these. It therefore is to satisfy others through Prof. Richards as to reputation enjoyed by Mr. Murray. Any endorsement of him by yourself would be followed by Prof. Richards.

endorsement of yourself and this would give the  
report the same weight and authority here as though  
examination had been made by some one from  
here ~~of~~ recognized <sup>as</sup> authority in such matters. If you  
cannot give such endorsement as I have asked,  
or would prefer not to give such, will you  
kindly write to Prof. Richards your ideas of  
the party named. As I am a stranger to you  
but well known to Messrs. Lord & Munroe and others in  
Montreal, I have asked my friend Mr. John  
Williams to see you about this matter.

Soliciting the favor of a reply, I am  
Very truly yrs

Prof. Dawson.

J. C. Bates  
J. Kimball & Bates