

Spencer

King's College  
Windsor N.S.

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My Dear Dr Dawson.

I received your letter this evening. That *Cornularia magnifica* is for the College. There were only two whole specimens that have ever been found and the one in Montreal is rather the better specimen. You ask me some questions about the publication of the description. In reply, I will require to take up a page of two.

In my investigations many more new facts came to hand than I have anticipated. I divided my work into three parts. Part I, the Palaeozoic Geology of the Region about the Western End of Lake Ontario. This covers fifty or sixty pages of finely written foolscap and would cover from 24 to 30 pages of Canadian Naturalist. There are

two small maps (but one might possibly be omitted). It is ready for press. Paper II on the same subject contains the Palaeontology and covers 130 pages of foolscap coarsely written, or pages not full, and would cover perhaps 40 pages Can. Nat. Of this about 40 pages of Manuscript is a review of the known fossils, and the balance consists either of new species or important corrections and additions of known species.

This portion of the work contains a revision of the Sceptotiles, before described, in which I separate *Inocaulis* from Hall's classification. Besides the known species I have described 29 species and four or five new genera.

Then a third portion of the paper contains descriptions of new species of Stromatopora the *Cornularia*, a beautiful *Litaster*, and in all about fifteen species. This is ready for press. I was in hopes of getting the Brit. Govt. to publish it as

They did Nicholson's *Journal* of  
Cret. - a work almost entirely  
made up of scissars - even  
his own species were published  
before. The Govt. will be perfectly  
inexcusable if they do not publish  
my work after doing his.

Nicholson's *British Geology* is  
really little more than Hall's "Works"  
with a few British examples.

I know of no man more overvalued - He  
was dissections to Prof. Chapman  
and many American Scientists, and in  
that way little more than an interloper.

Part. III. of my paper consists of  
the Surface Geology. This is only  
partly written and I have left it  
for the present to follow up the  
wider subject - *Fluvial Geology*  
of the whole Continent. It was  
fortunate that I met Prof. Lesley  
at Xmas, for my investigations  
are assuming wide proportions.

Prof. L. asked me to send him the  
manuscript on the discovery  
of the Pleistocene Tuller of Erie.  
It is published, I received copies  
yesterday, but there are two maps  
which have not yet arrived. I send  
you the paper - and will forward  
maps at earliest opportunity on  
their arrival.

It is to be reprinted among the  
publications of the Geom. Survey.  
About a week ago I sent a paper to  
Prof. Lesly on the former outlet of  
the Upper Ohio emptying into the  
Yukoning and Grand Rivers of  
Ohio and Lake Erie.

Now as to the Publication, I would have  
liked to have had the whole published by  
Canada. Mr. Whitcomb offered to  
have the fossils published, but the  
conditions were such that no  
person would submit to, unless  
compelled. If any credit wants  
be derived or faults to be found,  
I wish to bear the consequences, and  
not give all that may be good to  
You W. As it is impossible  
that the Brit. Govt. will publish  
my work as a whole I will send  
shortly the Paleozoic Geol. Mr.  
Hovind offered to draw on stone  
the fossils for \$10 a page 800.  
Now, a good deal could be done on  
four or six pages. The ornamentation  
and cell structure of the Graptolites  
could be given without drawing  
the whole form. It would take  
about 10 plates to illustrate the  
whole fully. On the Canadian Naturalist  
has not published many plates

for a long time, would they be  
willing to do the present work?

Besides, the Palaeozoic Geology  
which is only filling a small  
vacancy in Canadian Geology,  
and the Palaeozoic Fossils, which  
are also filling up a gap left by  
other workers (Especially ~~with~~  
the Sceptotiles), I will eventually  
have prepared the Surface Geology  
of the region. Of course my  
Fluvial Geology forms a  
wide subject. I think that I am  
on the road to the discovery of the  
Outlet of Lake Erie. That proposed  
by the Mohawks is wholly im-  
possible. I ~~take~~ <sup>look</sup> upon this  
as my chief work.

In preceding papers on this  
subject, I will have to go into  
the "Glacial Theory", and the  
facts collected are very strong  
against the Glacial Hypothesis.  
Glaciers had nothing to do with  
the origin of the lakes, nor can  
they be shown to have deposited  
the Drift of Western Ontario, nor  
indeed of the filling of the great  
valleys of the Rivers of the Great

Would you please know what extent the A. Nat.  
can illustrate. Of course my work would have to go  
through several numbers?

The College have lost their Government Grant (\$25000)  
Although they hoped (instead the Home with my own  
kindly advice, because the Legislative Council  
is at head set with the Government.

I am sorry to hear you have lost  
hope this letter would not be altogether uninteresting.  
I am all the best  
J. W. M. [Signature]

"Great River Age". The Great Lakes  
are not filled with drift (except  
locally) to any extent, or at least  
not was before the outlines  
of the ancient bottoms.

The filling of South-Western Ontario,  
between Huron and Erie, was not  
done by glaciers, but as the material  
is stratified and not deep except  
in channels, - the drift appears  
to have been carried there by  
glacial ice. To show, all the  
great closed up river valleys of  
Ohio and Pennsylvania (I have  
visited many of them) appear to  
have had the courses closed by  
drifting ice banks with debris  
blocking up the way, otherwise  
glaciers passing down them, or  
glacial Rivers would have kept  
them clear - (with some exceptions).

But I must not take up your  
time. I have observed that there  
are indications that the land  
at the mouth of the Mississippi  
was at one time 3500 feet higher  
than at present; and also that  
the soundings point to the curious  
indications of land being 6 miles

Would you let me know what extent the A. Nat.  
can illustrate. Of course my work would have to go  
through several numbers?

The College have lost their Government Grant (\$25,000)  
Although they hoped (instead) the Home Contingent  
Committee would become the Legislative Council  
to at least deal with the proposals.

I am sorry to hear of your loss. But  
I hope this letter will not be altogether uninteresting  
to you. I am all the best,  
J. W. M. [Signature]