

Montreal July 23/81.

My dear Sir,

I have just received yours and was about to call on the Printers when I thought I would try an experiment with different papers before calling. — I observed that the pasteboard Labels in the Mineral Show Case were not blurred, so I wrote a few words on a card & on a piece of Foolcap paper & a few words on the Mitchell & Wilson Label and laid the three pieces on the Table, to my astonishment the writing on the Foolcap was the first to blur, then the writing on the Pasteboard gave way, while that on the Printers paper escaped altogether untouched. I saw at once there was something beneath all this and I gave the subject my undivided attention, as the situation was becoming serious. — I had been annoyed more or less by the House fly clustering about the Ink bottle & my attention was now forcibly drawn towards him from the following circumstance. I had a sprig of Mint standing before me which I observed was becoming dotted with small black spots, this at once took my attention, I examined the spots with my hand glass & found them to be ink spots, my Coat was dotted over likewise with the same. I then went to the Case in the Museum containing the first Labels that I wrote for the Coniferous fossils & found the writing unblurred, I then examined the Chatfield Collection which I

which I finished before the Housefly became troublesome, the writing here was all right, so that I am fully convinced that these little pests have been the cause of all the trouble.

I now cover the Ink Bottle with a paper Box after every dip as, on emptying the Bottle, I found it one third full of flies, they are very fond of the Ink, both in the Bottle & on the Labels after being freshly spat down the Tablets, so that, to "circumvent the warmints" I have to put each Tablet at once under cover. I have succeeded in outwitting them, as not a single letter is blurred, although the enemy is as determined as ever, and so ends this strange, eventful history.

I had a visit from Mr & Miss Crane, Brighton, England. They wanted very much to see you, I think Miss Crane reviewed your last published Book. They both seemed well up in Palaeontology, and quite at home in the work I had in hand viz. *The Carpenter's Bees*, I let them have a look at the Carboniferous Fossils & Richardson's collection & the specimens of Coroon, the latter they came specially to see, they were very much pleased with all they saw.

They are now at Quebec, but will return  
to Montreal, they came on from  
San Francisco.

Trusting Mrs Dawson and  
yourself are in good health,

I am Dear Sir

Yours truly  
H. Curry.

Cury / Aug / 81

Principal Dawson  
Little Metis.  
Quebec