

Coffin  
Gilpin

McGill College,  
Montreal.

Feb 20, 1882

My dear Mr Gilpin,

I return herewith your  
very interesting memoir on the  
Gold-fields, of which I shall  
be very glad to have a  
copy by and by.

The only geological statement  
that seems to me chief & unneeded  
is that on page 20, relating to  
Winds' attempt to identify the  
granites and gneisses with the  
Laurentian. On this I would  
make the following notes for your  
consideration.

(1) Of course it is right to  
state Winds' view; but it should

represent typical Laurentian.

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I think also he stated that he stands alone. Selwyn, Hunt or myself who have studied the two Laurentian think differently.

(2) It is scarcely fair to say that a "superficial observer" might regard the Laurentian beds as intrusive, more especially as this may be supposed to apply to those also differ from kind. \*

(3) The granites and gneisses of Nova Scotia as a matter of fact do not resemble lithologically any member of the Laurentian. The Laurentian gneisses as a rule are hornblende, not micaceous, and their felspar is of different texture and less albitic. They are beds laminated and inter-

stratified with hornblende and calcareous rocks, serpentines, &c.

(4) The Nova Scotia granites and gneisses actually do resemble <sup>very closely</sup> quite another Canadian series viz that of the Eastern Townships of Quebec & the White Mountains (the Montserrat of Hunt) which is newer than the Huronian, and may possibly be near to the age of the Lower Cambrian.

5 As to the intrusive (I do not say "eruptive"; as on page 5) nature of the granite, I think my observations at Shelburne, Cochrane's Hill & Victoria are conclusive, and I might have

\* Not even the most superficial observers could do so in the case of the Lower & Middle Laurentian, and the Upper Laurentian is a collapsible series

Given other localities, besides  
having studied the similar rocks  
at Le Mans and the White  
Mts. This is really not a matter  
of opinion at all, but of est-  
ablished fact.

(b) When I went over the  
ground at Waverly some years ago,  
with Wind, the only fact he  
could allege as to the bedded  
character was the occurrence of  
fragments of gneiss in the granite,  
which seemed to me to look the  
other way.

I should perhaps explain that  
in a report of the discussion on Hensley's  
paper in London in 1870, I was made  
to agree with him, whereas I dissent,  
but these reports are often "cooked" or  
incorrect.

This seems a long note about  
a little matter; but I have been  
sorry to see this error of Hensley's  
often referred to, as if it had not been  
contradicted, and confusion caused in the minds  
of English geologists by supposing Hensley's descriptions to represent by

Another question which hangs  
 on the intrinsic character of the  
 granite is the age of the  
fold peaks. You rightly state  
 the evidence that they are  
 pre-carboniferous; but their  
 age in the other direction  
 is limited by that of the  
 intrusive granite, which is  
 contemporaneous with the pli-  
 cation and partial meta-  
 morphism of the beds. Now  
 I think I pinned very long  
 ago that the granite at  
 Victoria and elsewhere in  
 that district is pre-diskany,  
 that is it comes within  
 the Devonian or Erian period,  
 for its debris is found in

The same Carboniferous and its  
cut beds with Oriskany fossils.  
It is now known also that all  
the similar granites in New  
Brunswick, Maine and Eastern  
Quebec are of about the same  
age. This being so, I think the  
gold veins should be held, as  
I have stated, to be "approxi-  
mately Devonian" in age.

Of course I attach no im-  
portance, nor I fancy do any geo-  
logists, to Huxley's ridiculous  
papers about the Victorian geology,  
which I am very glad to see  
Hurlifax has displaced itself by  
publishing; and which I took the  
trouble to comment, not merely  
because they were contrary to the  
stratigraphy of fossils, but because they  
threw nearly the whole geology of  
Nova Scotia out of line with that  
of the rest of Canada.  
With all kind regards,  
I am yours sincerely  
J. M. Dawson