

HOTEL ATHENÆUM,
BOLLY LEWIS, Manager, - CHAUTAUQUA, N. Y.

My Dear Doctor:-

C. L. J. C.

Chantanqua Titerary and Scientific Circle.

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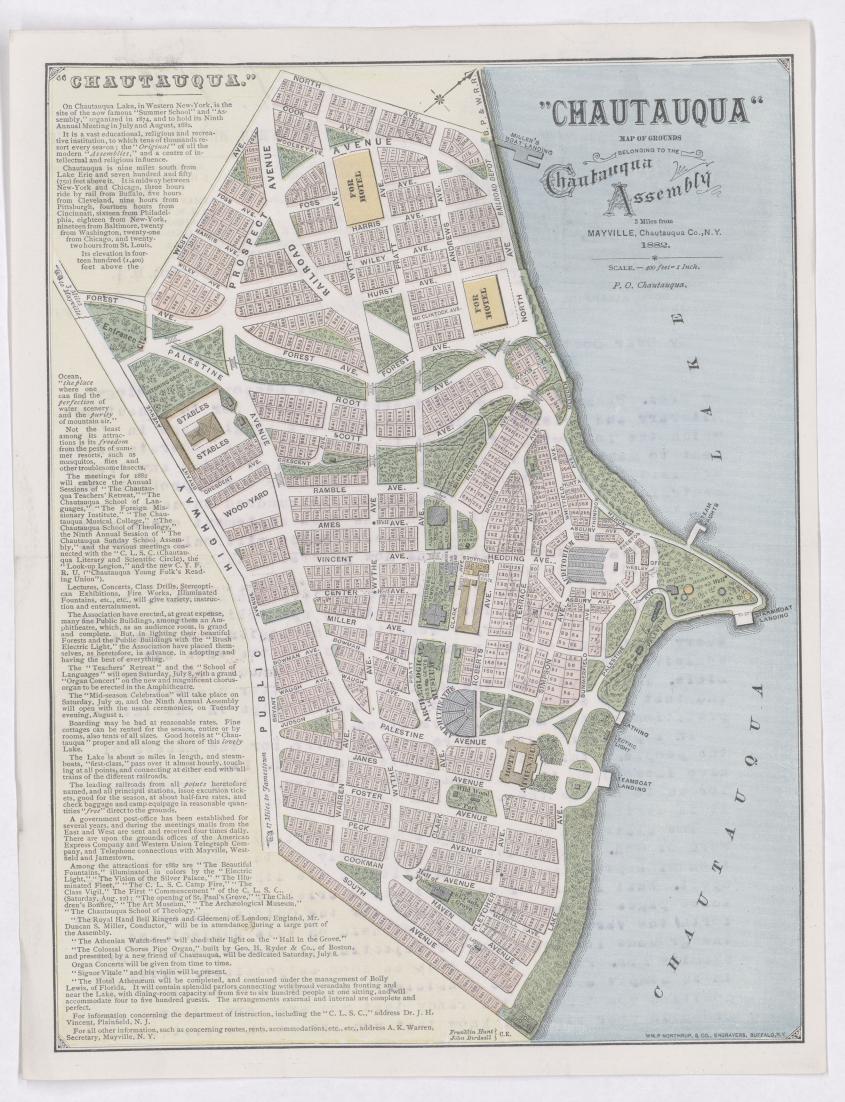
New Haven, Conn., June 7, 1882.

In a volume on "First Lessons in Geology", by Prof. Packard of Brown University, written for the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, there is a single page in which the following statement is made: "It is a moderate statement to make that the earliest race of man of which any traces are left to us made his appearance upon our eatth, probably in central Asia, from fifty thousand to one hundred thousand years ago." The paragraph which contains this statement opens with the following: "When did Man appear? Space will only allow us to brieflygive the conclusions now generally accepted by those best qualified to judge."

Now, my Dear Doctor, I am a firm believer in science, and have great admiration for a scientific specialist, and I have no sympathy with the hyper-sensitive theologian who sees in every statement of the naturalist which contravenes his preconceived notions of things a deliberate assault upon the Bible. I believe that the Book is to be better understood and that the study of the Book of nature helps in the interpretation of the Book of revelation.

In a popular course of reading, however, for the masses of the people, I think it unfortunate that Prof. Packard should have introduced this statement in this way. It is too late for us to remove the book from our lists, nor do I know that it is desirable.

The statement does not, of course, affect my faith in the Word of God. I have not read up closely on the closely question of a pre-adamite man. Multitudes are like me in that respect. What I want of you is this: A brief article of two or three pages in the "Chautauquan" for the October number, to set forth the various views that are held on this subject, and the grounds for accepting or rejecting the doctrine of a pre-adamite man. Please write this as soon as possible. Write it in as simple a style as possible. I do not know at all what position you take, but I fancy that you are very liberal and broad in your views. I know that you are so in everything I





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have read from your pen; and you can write such an article as will reconcile the average christian reader to Prof. Packard's statement, or prepare him to look at the other sideand still retain respect for the pre-adamite theorists.

Do I make myself clear? Will you render me this service? You will be paid according to your own terms for the article. It is important, however, that I shall know immediately that you will do the work. If you cannot, to whom shall I look? I have sent you a copy of the June "Chautauquan".

Truly Yours,

Ust vincent

J. H. VINCENT, Sup't of Instruction, C. L. S. C.

JUN 7 1882

Drawer 75, NEW HAVEN, CT.

Dr. Dawson, (Geologist,)
Montreal, Canada.

