

Dwight

VASSAR COLLEGE,

Poughkeepsie, N.Y., June 22 1882

Dear Sir,

The suggestion has just been made to me by my Cousin Prof. J. D. Dana, that I should prepare a paper for the Montreal Meeting of A. S. A. S. on the results of my recent investigations (stratigraphical & paleontological) into the Wappinger (Barreget) Limestone of Dutchess Co. N. Y. and neighboring Counties. He also suggests that I should exhibit on that occasion a full suite of the remarkable fossils which I have developed from these localities, proving by absolute paleontological evidence the presence here of the Truhton & Calceferous

groups - and proving also
that they are both wholly
different from any other region
in the U. States in their fossil
fauna, and that the Californians
appear to be rich in new forms.

As the absence of paleontological
evidence has hitherto left this
so-called 'unfossiliferous' limestone
a prey to diverse opinions as to
their geological horizon, the
present conclusive evidence would
doubtless be welcome if it were
merely the presentation of a few
fossils just sufficient to prove
the point. But the facts so
far beyond this - The Hoehdale
Californians is one of the richest
treasuries of fossils (for so con-
sidered a locality - say 1500 feet
in length in a continuous ledge -)

that I ever beheld.

As I have my time largely pre-occupied by engagements during this Summer, it will be difficult for me to prepare a paper at this late day -; yet I will try to do it, and to offer it for acceptance as early as possible.

The ground that I could cover would be only a general (though not therefore uninteresting) statement of the results - giving a general account, illustrated by extempore charts, - of the Stratigraphy, and some general description of the fossils found. Hence I have spent a very great amount of work on the mass of specimens collected by myself - they are not yet ready sufficiently classified for publication in the Series of articles which I am issuing in the *Ann. Journ. Science*.

I would like to ask you (1) if
 you approve of my presenting
 this subject, (2) whether it would
 be convenient and desirable that
 I should exhibit my specimens
 covering (of selected specimens) say
 25 sq. ft. of space - & (3) how
 much time should be occupied at
 the meeting by such a paper -
 As I hear that you are intending
 to have a set of Canadian fossils there,
 it would be one of the opportunities which
 I much need, to compare my specimens
 with Canadian types. Mr. J. F.
 Whitcomb has already in his hands
 a set of 57 of these, which he is kindly
 comparing with yours. We hear
 nothing in the U.S. which throws
 any light on them.

I remain, Yours very truly,
 William B. Dwight,
 Professor of Natural History
 Vassar College.

J. M. Dawson, L.L.D.
 Principal of McGill College.

Mr. F. M. Peabody suggests that perhaps one of your cases from the Old
 Museum can be placed in the first section. I am for the exhibition of specimens.

But a table for trays would answer well.