

Review Office,

Durham, December 29, 1882

J. W. Dawson, L.L.D., C.M.G.,

Dear Sir, It seems that the two boxes of fossils I sent you per freight have got astray somewhere, but I hope they have arrived ere now. I sent you a small box of Stromatopora, all from Durham, by express which I expect you will receive before you get this, and I would like you to look at carefully, as the structure, while quite plain to my eyes, is not very quickly seen by some. A number of the pieces I have polished and I think they show the structure beautifully. There is one specimen with a peccid pencil

mark I thus shows a singular
feature of the structure,
being marked with star like
little burrows something like
this * * * * * perhaps from
three to six in the space of an
inch. I have one specimen
shows them very distinctly
distinctly. I have felt won-
derfully interested in them my-
self since I discovered them
this fall. I did notice the
structure before but tried
to break a piece out now
and then to show ^{the} shape
as a whole, but never thought
of polishing one myself.
I think now as I did at first
when I noticed it two or
three years ago, that it is
wonderfully like *Eozoon*

color *Canadensis*, but much finer
in structure. I would like
like you to get the other fossils
sent you as there are many
much finer specimens as I
packed up all the specimens
I had on hand for you, and
then collected another box
full. They are mostly in
a rough state but will
probably well repay for
a little polishing. As re-
gards the rest of the fossils
I wrote in my last letter.

I am pleased to notice
that the British Association
is to meet in Montreal, and
it ^{would} be a treat to me no doubt
to visit your city on that
occasion, but I do not think I
shall be able. My own col-
lection looks well considering

The drain made upon it
this fall, but it is larger
now than ever, although I
do feel as if I had lost
some "old friends." I think
I must have added over 400
specimens, and sent away
over 200 lbs weight. One
box of fossils, mostly ~~trilobites~~
bivalves, I sent to Professor
Hall, when yours were sent,
arrived about a week ago,
and two small boxes to
Ottawa I have not heard
from yet. We have about
two feet of snow here now,
but the new stromatopora are
numerous in the rock in this
Town, and as I have quarried
a good many tons of it at various
times, if you should wish
more it will not be very
hard to get when the

Snow disappears, as the
rain has washed them
clean now I and I can see
them better. A stream that
joins our River about four
miles west of here is called
the "Rocky" Saugeen, and
there is mention made in
"The Geology of Canada, ~~1886~~
1863" as you likely have
noticed in the Guelph For-
mation, but no notice is
taken of the rock in Dur-
ham. It is well named—
"The Rocky." I have fol-
lowed its course from
Markdale to its mouth—
a distance of about twenty
miles. About seven miles
from here ~~were~~ where the
rock is exposed on each side
of the river in cliffs of 50
or 60 feet; there is one place

where it appears to be
one mass of Stromatopora
of all sizes from that of a
bean to a wash tub, and it
had a peculiar appearance.

I was up there about two
years ago and I remember
one fine specimen lying
lose more than one foot
in diameter, something
like a split cabbage.

I lifted it up but it was
too ~~heavy~~ heavy to carry
away, so I had to leave it.

The rock is very hard and
a piece of it will ring like
metal. As soon as the
snow goes off I will go
again and see if I can find
anything new. About three
quarters of a mile from

the place, but nearer here,
I have been going to lately
and procured some fine speci-
mens. Trimerella is very plenti-
ful, as well as different varie-
ties of Murchisonia of the
larger sizes.

I thank you sincerely for
the book you sent me, and
for your kindness, but per-
haps I may become wearisome
if I write too much. I should
like, if ^{you} mention our
fossils, in any work you
may publish to get a copy.
I would have wrote sooner
but was busy of late with
paper of a copy of which I
will send you now and then
them. Yours sincerely,
J. Townsend

Journal

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