

address  
28 Jermy St  
London

G. K. Brown  
Norfolk Villa  
Wimbush Lane  
Hitchin  
July 4 / 84

Dear Sir

I have read your Notes  
on Raised Sea Margins in Egypt  
(Geol. Mag July) with much interest  
for the facts you describe enable me  
to understand features in the valley  
of the Nile which ~~was~~ I failed to  
account for when in Egypt during  
the winter of 1876-7.

In a paper on Some flint implement  
from Egypt (pub in the Journ. Anthropol  
Soc. 1878) I described the plateau of  
Helwan

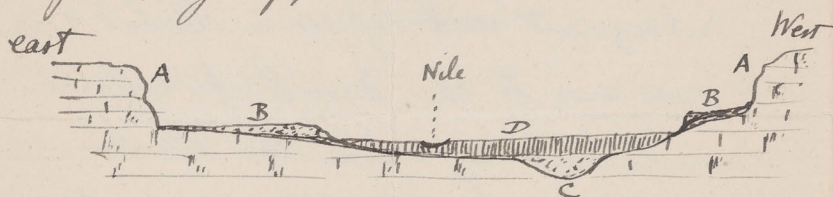
I showed that it is a debris covered  
scar from which the cliffs have receded  
adding that this recession must have  
been brought about by the action of  
rain &c on a cliff line produced originally  
by river erosion.

I was loth to bring in sea-action  
but in view of the evidence which  
you now adduce, I see that this scar  
may be regarded as a sea-beach or  
rather as part of the rocky bottom of  
the estuary when occupied by the sea.  
Possibly too the clays & sands I describe  
may be of marine origin.

In any case the oscillations of level  
which you describe appear to completely

to account for the present form of the Nile Valley that if you are not going to draw further conclusions from these I would send a few lines to the Genl. Mag.

A section across the valley would probably appear as below—



- AA = the bounding cliffs  
 BB = rock terraces, covered with debris  
 C = The trough formed by the Nile when the land stood higher than now  
 D = The alluvium accumulated since the latest depression.

The wide Nile valley was doubtless formed or at any rate widened by sea erosion when

the terraces you describe were formed  
& the land 200 feet lower than now.  
Then came upheaval - meaning retreat  
of the sea & deepening of the valley,  
by river erosion, continuing till the land  
stood higher than at present & a deep  
now cut was made by the river.

Subsequent ~~and~~ depression checked erosion  
& gave rise to the present periodical  
inundations by which the alluvium  
has been deposited, as you mention  
in your last paragraphs.

The Helwan scar would of course  
mark a later stage than the Mokattam  
terrace - a pause in the upheaval. I shall  
be glad to know if you agree in this  
view & remain

G. J. M. Dawson

yours faithfully  
A. J. P. Browne  
Geol. Survey