



Matthies
Dec/85

My dear Sir

I can fully exonerate you, so far as I am concerned, from any intention of injustice in the use of the name "Acadian" for the St. John Group; as I never thought of it in that light, but only supposed you used it because you thought it more appropriate.

It may be that I was "unwise", years ago, in retaining the old name (St. John Group), but I did not see it so at the time, and am not even now convinced that I would have done better by acting otherwise.

But whether right or wrong,
I have now used the name
in various publications so fre-
quently, that it would be unwise
to change; and while I would
be glad to meet your wishes in
any way possible, I am convinced
that for me to abandon it now,
and adopt Acadian (except as
an alternative name), would lead
to confusion.

I would be the last
wittingly to do an injustice to
the memory of Hark; but you
will recollect that with his know-
ledge and consent the term St
John Group was used in the
Provincial Geological Report in
connection with his determination
of the primordial age of the
formation — and also that

I was not aware that Hart had any connection with the proposing of the name Acadian until you informed me of it within the present year; I therefore do not feel that I am in any way unkind to him in holding to the original name.

I cannot but regret with you that no effort was made to secure Hart's Cambrian collections for the Geological Museum. It was the want of access to these types that for years delayed me in my work upon the Cambrian, as I could not make out Hart's small leonocephalites, and must now trust to Walcott's determinations of them. We cannot now retrieve the past, but we may yet hope to make Canadian

publications the chief source
of knowledge on the Lower
Cambrian of America - if suf-
ficient encouragement be given.

I have been delayed in
selecting the balance of the
set of Cambrian fossils for
your museum, but will for-
ward them shortly.

and remain

very respectfully yours

H. M. Atkinson.