

Leicester Hall
49 Aborn Street
Feb 3rd 1886.

J. W. Dawson Esq^r.

Dear Sir,

I have been
reading again your splendid book
"The Chain of Life in Geological Time"
which interests me more and more
each time I look at it and it has brought
to my mind the little correspondence I
had the pleasure of having with you
a few months since in connexion with
Geology and Genesis wherein you were
kind enough to admit that there were
two ways of looking at some of the points

raised but upon the main one the six day
creation you will remember that you
stated that the Bible "shut us up to long
creative days and that Geology did not
admit of a chaotic state of the earth
intervening between the Modern period
and Geological ages", to which I demurred
chiefly though not wholly on scriptural
grounds so that upon this point we diff-
ered in opinion, still upon re-reading
your excellent book I think that I was
not far wrong if at all so hope that you
will pardon me referring to the matter
again. If I understand your book
aright living creatures were in the past
suddenly withdrawn and others equally
suddenly introduced for instance see

Page 159. and as shown on Pages 182 & 193.
between every such new introduction
a submergence of the land took place,
may not then such a submergence be
the true meaning of Gen I. 2. "the earth was
without form and void &c" and would not
this be the state of things at the Glacial
Period mentioned on Pages 235, 6, and if so
does not the introduction of man after
the Glacial Period Page 238. and with
him various new mammals Page 246.
accord with the creation of Genesis I. if it
does then there is no reason to doubt its
being a literal 6 day one especially if
Prof. Haughton's theory of climatic changes
be applied to account for Geological
climates and not the heat of the sun,

for God was certainly omnipotent
enough to recreate or fashion the world
in this small space of time as shown
by the sudden influx of new life in the
past or it may have been that his ser-
vants the angels were the constructors
or workmen and that legions upon legi-
-ons of them were employed in the work,
if this were so the old Geological world
may have been only their workshop
where they tried their prentice hands
under his personal supervision he
himself however bestowing the life upon
the creatures created, in this sense Bera-
-shith, aleim-bera, and tohu would have
their true significance for God or his
angels no doubt did Berashith, in the

(2)

first place, *aleim-bera*, "put together" from
tohu, "topo a turvey or a state of disorder,"
this creation, certainly any way Geological
epochs do not fit the days of Genesis accor-
-ding to what took place on those days
neither can the days as I said before time
be treated as referring to long periods of
time from a scriptural point of view
as shown by chapters I, II, Gen; and ~~XX~~
~~XXXI~~. Exodus these especially, thanking
you very much for past courtesies and
hoping that I have not troubled you
to much I am with best wishes.

Respectfully yours,
John Hall

P.S. If you still have my letters by you
and All. Past Time will you kindly refer to
them again. J.H.