

Hale  
Clinton, Ont., Dec. 13, 1886

My dear Sir William Baird,

I am greatly obliged for the gift of your Birmingham Address, which I shall prize highly. I had read it with great interest in the Popular Science Monthly, but am glad to have it in the separate form, with the valuable notes and references.

I must thank you also for the Museum Report, and for kindly drawing my attention to the very curious and interesting fact of the existence of wampum among the Quiches. This fact and the

other points referred to <sup>by</sup> Mr. Haliburton  
and Prof. de Meafeges (the latter  
quoted in my pamphlet) seem certainly,  
as you suggest, to put us on the  
trace of a primitive connection  
across the Atlantic in the Co-Magnum  
era.

Can you do me the additional  
favor of sparing me another copy  
of your address and also a second  
copy of the Redpath Museum Report? I  
have received a letter of considerable  
length and great interest from Mr.  
Gladstone, discussing some points of my  
Buffalo paper, and making important  
suggestions and inquiries, which call  
for a reply. With this, I should

be glad to send him your pamphlets.  
The inquiries which relate to linguistic  
matters come within the compass of  
my own studies. But in geology  
and the allied sciences, I am dependent  
entirely on the authorities; and you are  
woud rank, of course, among the  
highest. Mrs. Gladstone suggests the  
consideration of the question whether  
the primitive traditions may not  
show some reminiscences of the later  
geological changes. He instances especially  
the Atlantis legend, and the Homeric  
tradition of a great central sea,  
which covered a large portion of Europe.  
He writes - "I believe, and may even  
say I have shown, that, in the

belief of Homer, the great block of  
the European continent to the north of the  
mountains was a sea. I am under  
the impression that the geologists hold  
it to be very young land. Certainly  
this was not a capricious imagination  
of the poet, nor was it a mistaken  
experience, but evidently an oral tradition."

As regards the Atlantic Legend, the  
remarks in your Address will show  
that his view as to the possibility in  
that case is in accordance with those  
of the latest and best authorities. In  
regard to the central sea there are, if  
I rightly understand the matter (and  
on this point I am anxious to have  
your opinion) two geological eras, or  
events, which should not be confounded,

In the glacial period of the Pleistocene era there is supposed to have been a great extension of the Arctic sea, coming down to the centre of Europe, and submerging the greater part of Russia, with the whole North of Germany and of the British Islands. Though man (in my view, "speechless man") probably existed at that time, it does not seem probable that any traditions of this ancient sea would be preserved.

But in a far later age, probably in quite recent times, the Black Sea was much more widely extended than at present. Prof. Winchell, in his work entitled "Pseudamites," (3<sup>d</sup> edit. p. 440) says that it covered what is now the prairie

region of Russia, and was confluent with  
the Caspian and Aral seas. He attributes  
the subsidence in this case to the fact that  
"the rocky barrier of the Uraian Proophoms  
gave way." He refers to Bergstrasser's  
"Reunion de la mer Caspienne et la  
mer Noire," and also to Prof. Sharley's  
"Critiques and addresses." The former  
I have not seen. The latter merely  
alludes to the great extension of the  
sea in recent times as an undoubted  
fact. Am I right in supposing that,  
in the opinion of geologists, this subsidence  
and contraction of the Black Sea may  
have taken place within the modern  
period, — and possibly within 2000 years  
B.C.? If so, it might furnish a

very curious confirmation of the  
Homeric tradition. It is a remarkable  
fact that the map of the Homeric  
geography, which Mr. Gladstone sketched  
fifty years ago (as I understand from  
his letter) and which appears in  
his "Studies on Homer" and his  
"Inventus Mundi," should ~~be~~ so strikingly  
accord in this respect with those later views  
of the geologists — that is, if I am  
right in my interpretation of them.

I should be greatly obliged  
to your opinion on this interesting  
point.

I am pleased to know that  
Lady Gausson has read my paper

on Wampum with interest. Begging  
you to convey to her and to accept  
for yourself my grateful acknowledgments  
of the courtesies and kindness of  
which I retain a most agreeable  
remembrance, I remain

Very sincerely yours

J. Hale