J. W. SPENCER, A.M., Ph.D., F.G.S.
Professor of Geology, DIRECTOR.

THE MUSEUM OF
The Missouri State University.

Columbia, Missouri, U. S. A., May 25/1887

My Dear Sir.

Thank you for the very kind letter. I regret that Mr Gill is in trouble. I was informed that Dr Chapman was to be retired this fall, but that appears not to be the case. There was a bill passed through the Legislature dividing Mineralogy from Geology. The matter is unsettled. I enclose you another little paper. You will be interested in another prepared "on the Subaqueous Origin of the Drift in Central Missouri." I would be glad to have your criticism of my views expressed in "Erosive Power of Glaciers in Norway." Dr Newberry has more than once alluded

come here. the Committee was made up of good men, and listened to the Administration. Just recently politics have gotten into the Institution. Every two years there is a question, whether the Legislature will not cut off even living expenses. Our representative is an old rebel capitalist, & trade a carpenter; in short, he is now the Carpenter to the University and a very poor workman. But his principal occupation is drinking, and if the liquor elements get in, as they manage to so divide the vote, & there rising, and that he slips in & a minority of the whole. The society here is almost made up of boarding house people. There is not one professor in the University, except the

I would not accept a position as assistant to Dr Chapman. I will give you a few words of explanation of the position here. Inside the University, the work is very pleasant. The climate is not. The town has about 4000 people of whom half are negroes. There is a constant quarrelling going on between the townspeople and the administration, who fortunately does not care much for them. Until the present, no President has ever survived more than Eight years. Dr Lewis has been here nearly Eleven. He is a rich man, and a strong man, an autocrat. My ideas are that only an autocrat could succeed in this place. The misfortune is that the entire mass of the governing body, living at this place, and form an executive committee, which really governs the institution. When I first

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what he regards as heterodox views. I hope to be at A.A.A.S. As you are the leader in this country of the floating ice theory, I should like to know what you consider my weak points in the paper, as the criticisms before going to N.Y. would be of great value.

It is a year since I was unable to find the second star fish (a fragment), but it turned up unexpectedly. I will return them and a collection of about 20 species of Upper Carboniferous fossils. I had hoped to have sent some Niagara, but I cannot get at them. I will either bring or send the package to Canada this summer.

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President, that is a credit to the institution, who would not exchange for as good a place. The President is working to build up a great place, which the people do not appreciate.
As far as Toronto is concerned the place would be pleasanter, the session shorter, the associations of the faculty superior, but less scientific advantages inside, as there has been hostility towards scientific equality with classics &c. One of the Senate of the University told me that they were not going to grant Science degrees, and allow the good old Classical Arts course to fall into disfavour. Moreover

Ontario is the most un-
scientific place in the
civilized world, and
Toronto University has
been responsible in a
great measure.
The salary of Toronto is better.
Two out of three of the Board
here can be described:
One a retail dry goods mer-
chant of a country town.
Another was a lawyer,
then a Baptist preacher,
then a politician, and recently
an unsuccessful can-
didate for Congress. In
this Toronto affair I have
done nothing to compromise
my position here. I can-
not help being impatient
sometimes. You will
pardon my trespass upon
your time. But may I
ask again for your criticism
on special courses

Yours faithfully

J W Spencer

Sir Wm Dawson, C.M.G., F.R.S.

Montreal

Spencer
May/87