

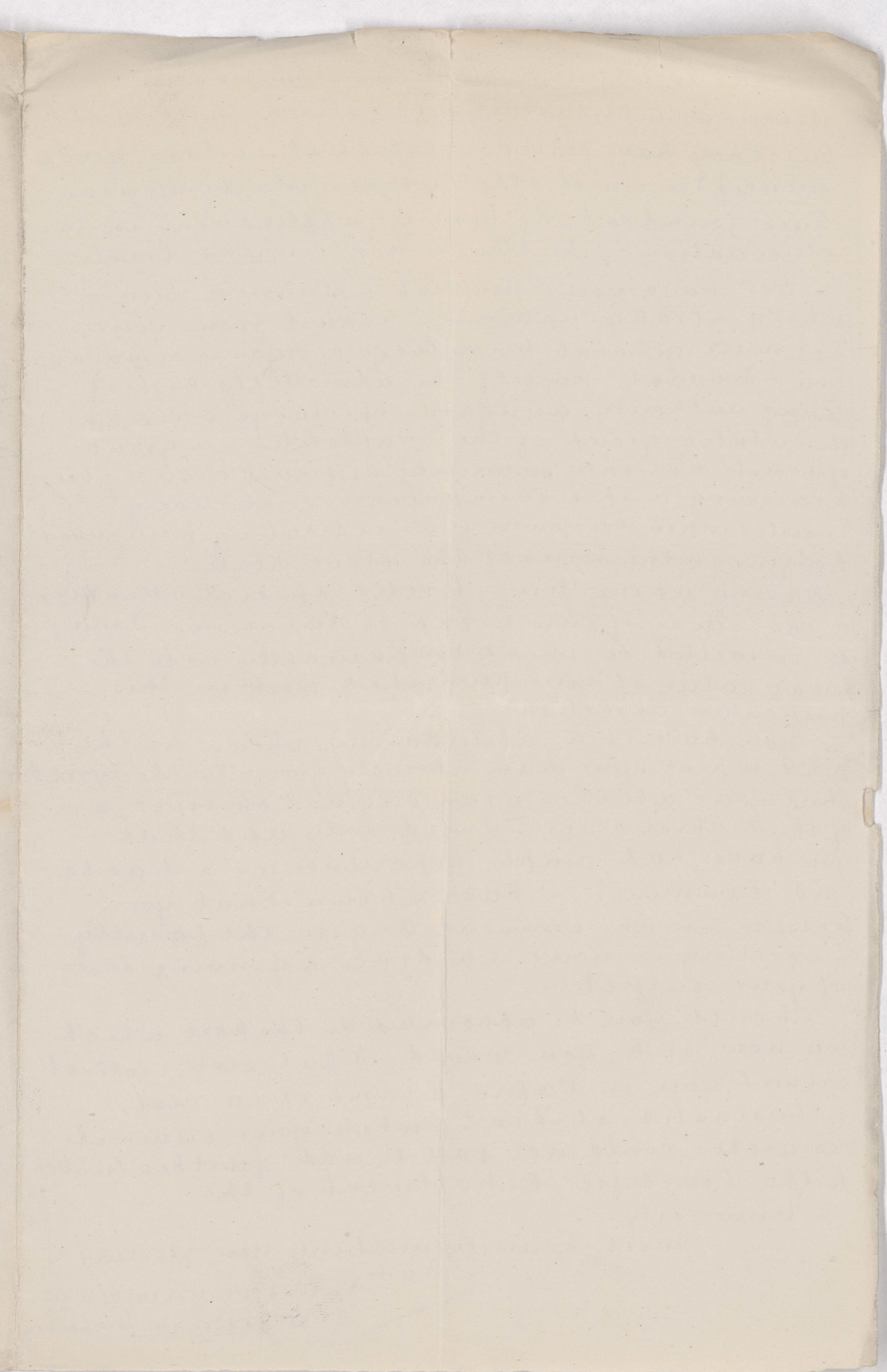
University
Aberdeen

June 25th 1871

My dear Lapworth.

I have the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to your eminent fitness for the Professorship of Geology in the University of Oxford, rendered vacant by the retirement of Professor Prestwich. It is not often that one man so entirely unites in himself the qualifications necessary for a chair of such a kind in a University so distinguished as an original worker in various fields of Geological Science you have won for yourself an enviable reputation. Your stratigraphical work among the Palaeozoic Rocks of Britain has commanded the admiration of all who have occupied themselves with this difficult branch of Geological investigation, and has placed you in the first rank of Geologists. I may more especially instance your memoirs on the Geological structure and succession of the Palaeozoic Rocks of Dumfriesshire and Ayrshire - districts with both of which I happen to have some personal acquaintance - as models of what such memoirs ought to be. It is not only that these memoirs exhibit the hand of a master in the manner in which the true order of

Perkins
Sept 1871



succession in these broken and complicated regions is deduced, from the apparently discordant phenomena exhibited in the field: but they have served to establish certain great principles, which other workers, in other regions, have found to be of general application, in the elucidation of the structure of similar tracts

— Nor have your published labours been wholly stratigraphical. Apart from your extensive general knowledge of organic remains you have made yourself the admittedly highest living authority as regards the large & widely-distributed group of the Graptolites — a group of fossils not only peculiarly difficult of study, but possessing a special importance, first clearly insisted upon by yourself, as indicating particular horizons in the series of the older rocks.

Having at one time devoted special attention to the study of this group of organisms, I may be permitted to speak emphatically as to the great value of your published work in this particular direction

You have then, abundantly shewn by the work which you have already given to the world, that your abilities, as an original observer, are of the highest order. I need only add that you have had ample experience as a teacher and Examiner, & have shown that you possess in an eminent degree, the faculty of exciting in your students a genuine love of your subject.

Should you be appointed to the post which you now seek, you would, I feel sure, collect around you in Oxford, a band of earnest enthusiastic students: while your original researches could not fail to add further lustre to the Scientific Department of the University

Most heartily wishing you success

I am
yours very sincerely
H. Alleyne Nicholson