

Beaver Falls, Pa.

Dec. 27th 1888

Sir Wm Lawson

McGill University

Montreal Canada.

Respected Sir:-

The enclosed

letter will explain itself & I would not have even
with it the temerity to address you were I had
something of importance to communicate or a
favor to ask as in the present case. Mr. Spence
has shown himself to be an exceedingly good
friend of mine & I hope someday to repay his trouble
but I think he has overrated me in the enclosed letter
for I have done nothing as yet. I lived some
years in New Brunswick & of course knew of your
"Acadian Geology" but never was able to see it till
recently & then, reading the chapter on "Surface Geology",
I was much surprised to find that you
repudiated the Glacial hypothesis, at least in its
extreme development. I asked Mr. Spence if you
still held the same views, for having been

thoroughly imbued at college & since with the "universal" acceptance of the Glacial theory I was much surprised to find that one so eminent as yourself was still a dissenter & yet I had never been told of it. And so while the completeness of that chapter in your Acadian Geology is unquestioned yet I would very much like to see some of your more recent papers if you will be kind enough to let me have them.

Prof. L. C. White, who surveyed the the Beane Valley region under the direction of Prof. Lesley, found a buried valley 100' + below present water level & found its cause in the erosion of a tongue of the "great glacier". Even though I had not then seen Forbes' nor anything questioning the truth of the Glacial Theory the idea of such erosion was repugnant & a summer spent in examining the valley made it clear that it was aqueous erosion & nothing else no matter how near the "ice sheet" might have been. Then I went to the A. A. S. meeting & met Mr. Spence & though finding him standing alone on Sec. E, soon learned of the European support of his views then of yourself & Prof. Whitney. I am a new beginner as yet but, as I feel I have given one side a fair hearing, I

now wish to turn to the other & it is help in so
doing which I make my excuse for addressing you.
Anything you can conveniently do to help me to
attain a right view will be very highly appreciated
I assure you.

The unquestioning acceptance by a majority, or
almost all, of American biologists of the extreme glacial
hypothesis is to me an ever-fertile source of
wonder. Probably it could be said that it is
history repeating itself. The great man has gone
wrong but the reaction must come. A certain
predominance of German influences & methods of
thought may partially explain the difference
between the phenomena exhibited by the American
school & the European school. Even then there is left
much which is difficult to account for. I am well
as usual of course. I will trespass no more on
your time. Hoping my request may be favorably
received I am

Yours Very Respectfully
P. Max Foshay

Anthony
J. J. Penner
Dec 1888