

2/24

'96

Ms. Summary
13 Pine St. Boston
Mass.

Sir William Dawson.
Montreal.
Canada.

Dear Sir. Through much
interest in your recent
"Lowell Course" in this city,
I could not listen to it.
I am occupied in teaching
on those evenings, on wh. your
lectures fell.

By special request, I obtained
a ticket by your course, for
my sister - who teaches in
the Day School of Boston -
hoping to get report from
her. She could attend

but the first night on
account of health. Then
I tried to glean something
from the brief reports (?) in
our city papers.

My interest in your lectures
here, was stimulated, by
what I had learned of your
position on scientific
questions, through my
husband, the late
William D. Gunning,
-lecturer and author.
He is called in our N. E.
Historical Maga. - in an
article on the Am. Lyceum,
- June (1895), A truly
wonderful man. This
by E. P. Powell of Cleveon

N.Y. - a man of some note
in American Letters.

My husband was self-made, of
that may be said of any man
of any one. He broke away from
the Scotch Presbyterian faith
at 14 - was apprenticed to
the Tailors Trade - worked at
it the full seven years, required
in his day in this country - until
his "majority" - 21 yrs. He then
followed his bent for
literature and science.

Got himself educated -
some how, - in the wild
State of Ohio. Was gradu-
ated from the Classical
Course at Ohio Coll. in
O., in 1854, at 26 yrs. of
age. He studied Law, - taking

a 2 yrs. course in one year,
that didn't hold him.
He came to New York then,
and had a course in
Comparative Anat. &c.
I think he regarded "as the
making of him," as we say
in New England. To secure
perfect freedom of expression
in his teaching, he
took the lecture platform
as his field. He occupied
it until within 2 mos. of
his decease, in Nov. 88.
His only considerable
vol. written is "The Life
History of Our Planet"
1876. Chicago, Keen, Cook,
& Co., Boston, Worthington Co.,
of New York, and now

Hurst & Co. N.Y.

publish a 25th Edition
^{over hour}
after it had been out
of print for a time.

His estate was somewhat
involved at his decease,
and I have been able
to do little for the
book - may do better
for it in the course
of this year. He wrote it
as an Evolutionist

I remember well his inter-
est and acceptance of
your discovery of Coogoon.
He quotes your discovery on
pp. 83 & 4. On p. 85 he uses
your name as authority on
the "Time Scale" of the
Archean rocks. He held

with Bostonians tests for
Spontaneous Generation.

This as early as 1868.

He was always a radical.

As a boy in his teens - a
tailor's apprentice, he was con-
sidered ^{in our days} by ^{slaves} the managers of
the "underground" railway,
for conducting fugitive
slaves to Canada, through
Ohio. He would take them
in a wagon by night - a
stage on their journey.
He was married in 1868 -
5 yrs. after he left Ohio
for Massachusetts. He
took a course with Agassiz,
and revered his
genius.

I was tending to language

study when I married
him. From that time I
devoted myself to helping
him to win bread, and
a hearing on the
popular lecture plat-
form. He was a consummate
orator, and artist
with chalk, and he
gained a support, when
almost no one else
could. He was much
beloved, and his decease
at 60, was lamented
by those who had known
his work.

He was one of those, who to quote
the words of J. V. Blake, successor
to Theodore Parker's ministry in
this city - "Take the facts and

and thoughts from these
primary men, (i.e. "The
great discoverers of fact or
of truth, like Galileo, Kepler,
Newton, Lavoisier, Darwin")
"and weave them into forms
and expressions by wh. they
run thro' this world"

This is a long introduction to
my primary motive for
intruding on your valuable
time. I tried to get from Dr.

Keyatt of the hall. His. Rooms,
a resume of your position on "Spontane-
ous Generation". As he doesn't attend
lectures, I failed. Will you be kind
enough to state it to me, with as
little trouble to yourself as
possible? I showed Dr. Keyatt
the clipping I enclose to you,
and he thought it good for
scarcely anything as your position.
Of course - as ^{showing} ~~read~~ teacher, the
health of S. S. has not been

proved and may not
be for an indefinite
time. But logic brings
us nowhere else than
to the assumption, that
some when, at some time,
it must have occurred
if we accept a universe
evolved from fire and
water.

I enclose the clipping in an
envelope, as I shall like
to have it again. It is the only
one of any of your recent
lectures, which I secured, as
it went through the press
of this city. I trust I do not
seriously interfere with
your work in sending
you this long letter. My
best-wishes love me

few minutes to search current
Science for your utterances.

Hoping that you are in
good health, and
achieving your desires
for demonstrated truth,
I am most respectfully,
(ans.) Mary Gunning.