

State of New York,



Office of the State Geologist,
Albany.

Hall
Me/97

Albany, May 9, 1897.

Sir J. W. Dawson,

293 University St.,

Montreal;

My dear Sir William:—

I have been very remiss in writing you, even for some months past, and I will only just now send a few lines in apology, and write again very soon. I have been sick with an attack of grippe since early in February, and a relapse about one month ago has made me unfit for any serious work during the winter and spring.

I am glad the geologic map has been found useful. I hope to be able to complete it, covering all the blank spaces with the proper representations of the formations which occupy them.

It was indeed very gratifying to me to receive the tributes of

my colleagues at the Buffalo meeting. Notice came to me as a surprise while I was upon the other side of the continent and in very poor health.

I thank you for your good wishes and hopes that I may be able to continue my work. It seems to me that you are yet too young to feel seriously the infirmities of age, - but we do not all grow old alike. I have felt sometimes during the past months as if the end might be near; I sink very low, but rally again; whether this alternation of up and down will continue, or whether I shall rally finally, remains yet to be seen.

I have received your paper on Cryptozoon, for which I thank you. I have published nothing since my first notice, although I have been accumulating material, hoping that I might do so at some time; however, I feel that it is now too late.

Some time last autumn, I think, you sent me a copy of a paper upon

the old sponges; unfortunately, it has been mislaid, and although I have been giving special attention to the arrangement of my pamphlets, it has not turned up thus far; if not asking too much, I shall be greatly obliged for another copy, which I will take care to preserve.

My work upon the Dictyo spongiae is in favorable progress, and has been by consent of the Comptroller, contributed as a part of my Annual Report, and it will appear in two parts, while at the same time I have provided for the printing of the whole in one memoir. The memoir will be illustrated by about seventy imperial quarto plates with text illustrations.

I am well aware of my delinquency in regard to replying to your letters, and I hope I may be able within a short time to look at your past unanswered ones, and reply to them. In the meantime, please accept my

sincere regards for Lady Dawson
and yourself, while I remain,

Very sincerely yours,
James Hall

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