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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C. Oct. 25, 1897.

Sir J. Wm. Dawson,
293 University Street,
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir William:-

On my return from the West last week I found yours of September 23d. I was very glad to hear from you and to know that you are still at work ~~with~~ⁱⁿ your study. You certainly have done a vast amount of work in your lifetime. I often think that if I am spared to complete some of the investigations I have in hand, but which I can scarcely touch owing to administrative duties, I shall be very thankful.

I went West in connection with our forest reserves, the survey of which has been placed in charge of this Bureau, but I took a month on the Cambrian and pre-Cambrian rocks of eastern California. I found the Olenellus fauna ranging through 5,000 feet of beds, and below it a great series of unaltered sediments 9,000 to 10,000 feet in which there is not a trace of organic life so far as I can determine. The lower series is made up largely of sandstones, sandy limestones, and siliceous slates. The Olenellus horizon is entirely conformable to the lower series, and the sediments are largely of the same character. Why there are no traces of life, even a trail or a trace of a fucoid, is more than I can

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Charles Galveston
1917

I want first in connection with our former research, the
survey of which has been placed in charge of this Bureau, but I
took a month on the Canadian and pre-Cambrian rocks of eastern
California. I found the Cambrian fauna ranging through 5,000 feet
to 10,000 feet in which there is not a trace of organic life to be
seen. The lower series is made up largely of sand-
stone and shale, and the lower series is made up largely of sand-
stone and shale. Why there are no fossils
is a question which I will even a trail of a trace of a fossil is more than I can

explain.

I will have the change made as you request, in relation to the sending of the reports from the Survey, and shall be pleased to send any papers that I may publish directly to you.

With kind regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Chas W Alcott