



S/

16th Nov. 1838

Dear Mr William Dawson

There is so far as I know
no record of the occurrence of sea-
shells at any great height in the
N. E. of Scotland. Shelly (marine) gravel
have been met with up to 500 feet
in Merdunshire. (See Jamieson, Quart.
Journ. Geol. Soc. 1882 p. 172). Shelly
gravel have been met with also in
Banff, Elgin, & Inverness up to about
500 ft or so by the geological Survey.
Possibly, it may have been some of
these that your father saw. But that

would put him far out in his estimate
of the height. I am quite sure that
no marine shells - ~~in fossils~~ have ever
been noted at an elevation of several
thousand feet. I believe the shells
found at and below 500 ft. have
been used for manure. known by the
farmers in former days. And, as you
know, deposits with freshwater shells
have formerly much used in Scotland
for the same purpose. Possibly, therefore,
your father may have referred to a
freshwater deposit - although that does
not seem likely - as our freshwater
shell beds are usually marl clays and
loams. It must have been very
interesting to visit the spot mentioned in
your father's autobiography (had it been

possible to locate it). The whole of that
area, however, has been carefully gone over
by the Geological Survey, with the result
I have mentioned. Is it not just
horrible that "thousands" may have been
inadvertently written for "hundreds"?

The Survey memoirs relating to the
N. E. of Scotland have not yet been published.
In "Explanation of Sheet 87": You will find
some account of the Shelly grounds.

Believe me

Yours truly
James Geikie

Prof. Peckie,
Nov. 1898.

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