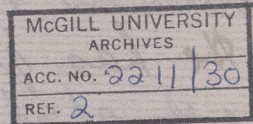


of W. D. Owen
D. S. P.

London Dec 23rd 1869.



Dear Papa.

Wednesday of last week
I dined at Mr Parkers, & showed me
quite a lot of forams, especially fossil ones
such as orbitolites of which he has a
large collection from all parts of the world.
He also showed me some beautiful
casts of the interiors of forams, impressions
obtained from those from the
Australian seas, the shell having
been dissolved away by acid.
I spent a very pleasant evening
there. He seems to be a very pleasant
man, full of conversation, & very
jolly. He has a large collection of
other things besides forams, especially
of wet anatomical preparations, &
seems to be principally a comparative
anatomist. He is now writing a

Monograph on the skull, in different
animals & all stages of development.
He has just completed the study
of the chickens skull, & is now
engaged at that of the frog, as
illustrated by the formation of that
part in the tadpole at all ages.
He said he was very sorry that
he had missed seeing you when you
were here, & hoped to do so when
you came next. He has written
many papers on the anatomy of
different birds &c.

Last night I went to the meeting
of the geological society & heard
your paper read. The first
paper of the evening was one by
Messrs H Tate & — on some iron
ore beds interstratified with basalt
in the north of Ireland, of Miocene
age, it was pretty long and there
was quite a discussion afterwards
as to whether they had been formed by

the metamorphosis of the basalt, or
were lacustrine deposits, such as *Trilobites*
said were now forming in many lakes
Winnepesaukee & Wabigoon for instance, by the
action of small plants, (*diatoms*) &
the *Gallionella*, & other families, which
aggregate oxide of iron around them. He
said that such deposits were now forming
in the lakes before mentioned, & were
regularly dredged up, & supplied many
iron furnaces.

Your paper came next, & to the
Calamit one Mr Morris, made a
short reply, seeming to agree principally
with Cantharis, he drew some diagrams
on the blackboard, & seemed to say (but
knowing nothing of botany I can't be very sure)
that the supposed medullary rays were
only connecting vascular matter. He
however said that it would be very
interesting to see your specimens.

On the reptile jaw Prof Huxley made
a few remarks. He said that it was a

mistake to call amphibians reptiles,
that they might as well be called birds,
at once, as they resembled them quite
as closely, that not having seen the
specimen he would not like to pronounce,
but that it seemed evidently labyrinthodont
& was very curious & different - in the
curved shape of the jaw. Mr Etheridge
remarked on the cephalopis that it
differed from any which he knew, by its
enormous skull, & the small relative size of
the body, but perhaps most resembled
the first which was found in Wales, (I
forget the name). The last paper was one
on some new Cretaceous reptile from
the Kimmeridge Clay. In going out
I heard someone, I don't know who cry
"That reptile of Dawson's is not a reptile at
all, but a fish" & added "I mean to tell him so"
so that perhaps you will hear from him
whoever he is. The prospect of Dr Frankland's
note book coming out seems more remote than
ever, & I have heard that a bookseller has promised
one of the students to write to Canada, & try for a copy
for him there. With best love to all at home
believe me yours &c &c &c
Geo. M. Dawson