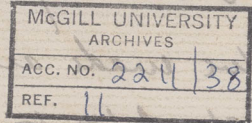


J. M. Dawson
M.P.

London.
April 9. 1871.



Dear Papa.

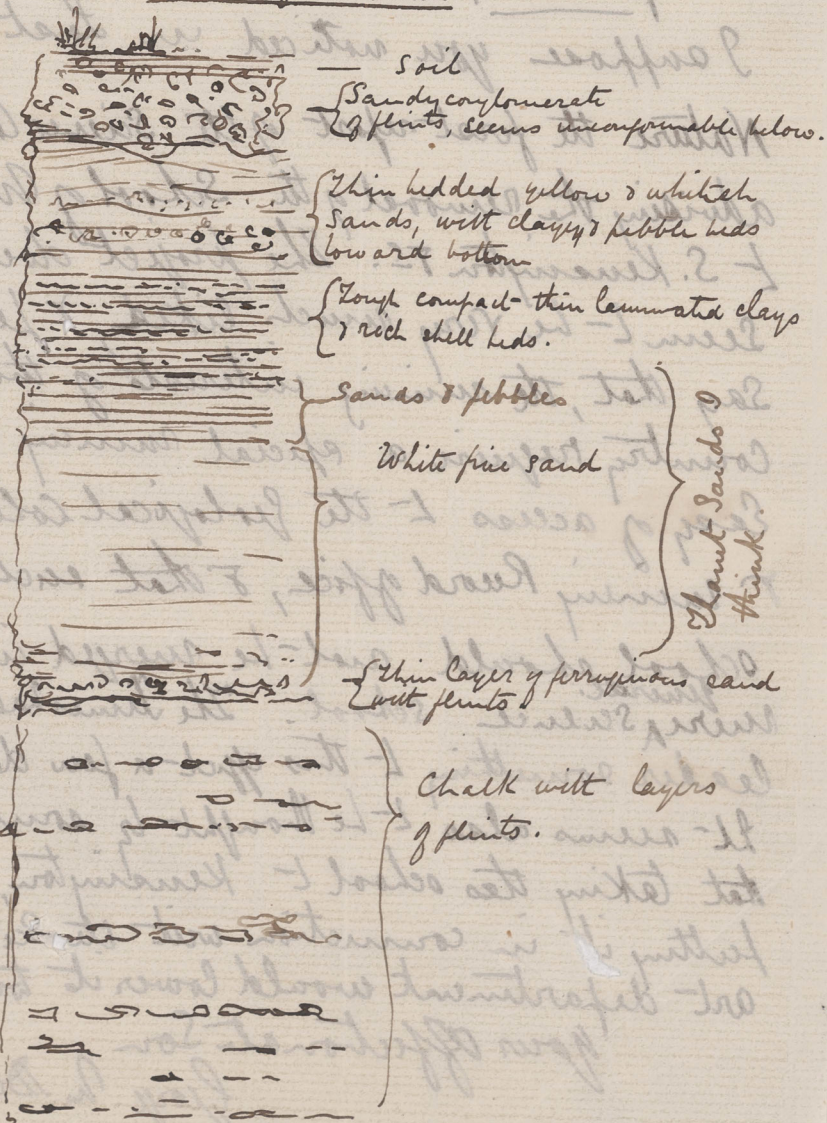
Last Wednesday, I went
to a meeting of the Royal Microscopical
Society. Parker having asked me if I would
like to go, as his father was going to read
a paper. It was rather interesting - on
the methods of working out the structure of the
embryonic skull. In comparing the merits
of various preservative agents, he said that
Chromic acid was very good, as it not
only hardened the specimens, but destroyed
the pigmentum nigrum, & allowed the structures
to be better seen. It rendered the specimens
however rather brittle, & rotten. An
improvement of Chromic acid, was a
solution of Potassic bichromate, & Sodium
sulfate

which was said to have the advantages,
without the drawbacks of the acid.

On Friday last, as it was holiday time
we made an excursion to Woolwich &
Charlton to have a look at the geology to
be seen there. We first looked at the
fluvio-marine Eocene beds of Woolwich & then
walked across to Charlton, where there
are large chalk pits, with good
sections of chalk, & the Eocene beds
lying above them. The fossils to be
found in the chalk were not very
many, & rather hard to get out in a
perfect state, as the chalk is so tough
when wet. There were lots of boys &
people about however who had specimens
for sale, & I got a few of them, including
some good *Echinoderms* for 2^d each.
The fauna of the Cretaceous sea
must have been rather poor in numbers

but rich in number of fossils, For
 though fossils on a given plane must
 be quite scarce, you seldom seem to
 come across the same form twice
 running.

Section of Charlton



I have not yet heard anything further from Prof Ramsay, though he told me at the time he received your letter, that you had written about me.

April 13-71.

I suppose you noticed in Last Weeks Nature the first report of the Science Commission advising the removal of the School of Mines to S. Kensington &c. The project does not seem to be very much liked, & people say that, the mining interests of this country require a special mining school easy of access to the Geological Collections & Mining Record office, & that such a school should not be merged in a ^{general} Science school. The Times had a leader something to this effect a few days ago. It seems also to be thought by some that taking the school to Kensington or putting it in connection with the Science & Art department would lower its tone

Your affectionate Son
Geo. M. Dawson