

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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Dear Papa

Prof Ramsay has been
here on his tour of inspection & is
off again. He only went out two
days. Giving one to the Skiddaw Slates
& one to the Green Slates & "Porphyries"

He brought Etheridge with him for the
purpose of "showing him the Skiddaws"
& was besides accompanied by Aveline
the District Inspector, & Hughes who
is working in the next sheet of the map.

So altogether we made quite a formidable
party. The weather both days was
unfortunately wet cold & stormy, but
still we managed to get over
the ground. Ramsay gave me
copies of two of his papers, & I also
took charge of duplicates which I hope

to send

to you by this mail. I will enclose
with them two or three leaves given to me
for you by Tennant, when I called about
the Palestine collection.

The work of the Survey here is greatly
facilitated by the very good ordnance maps.

It is carried on in the field on the
maps to scale of 6 inches to a mile
which show everything, & allow the
beds to be very closely traced &
mapped in. Every dyke vein of the
least importance is traced & put
down. In coal countries two series of
Geol maps are published 6 inches
one inch; in such unproductive regions
as this only one inch. It is great

difficulty here is the separation of the traps
& volcanic ash beds, which are
interstratified. It is often quite
impossible to decide in a hand
specimen, & one only gains a clue
from the outside appearance, or
occasional distinct bedding of the

Rock. The ashes are sometimes
taken into what looks like ~~xxx~~
compact felsite on fresh fracture, &
breaks conchoidally, while on weathered
surfaces beautiful bands of bedding
are to be seen. Sometimes however
the fragments are plainly discernable
for the ash not so much indurated
in which case it is generally cleared,
in some cases so thoroughly as to
furnish very good slate. There
are some splendid breccias composed
of huge blocks of trap many feet
in diameter, & one measured was
found to be eight. This great series
of igneous rocks is never than the
Skiddaw slates (which are supposed
to equal Plandale) though the junction
in so far as yet seen is always
faulted. To the S, the igneous rocks
are ~~indeed~~ overlaid conformably by
the Cornistow beds which

are good Bala. They therefore
are equivalent to the cycloporous rocks
of Silurian age in Wales more
or less. They are much less
satisfactory however inasmuch as
they have never given a single
fossil, nor shown any inter-
stratification of ordinary sedimentary
or marine deposits which would
serve as a good horizon.

The Skiddaw Slates are very poor in
fossils, the commonest being graptolites
& Phyllofods. I was fortunate enough
to find the squarish remains of a
trilobite the very day Etheridge arrived
& he thinks he will be able to determine
it. I think I must leave here
for London about the end of the
week so as to be in time for the
Met. Lab. which opens I believe on
Monday Oct 2.

Your affectionate Son
P. G. Pease.