Rawlinson

Winnipeg
Aug. 24th

My dear Father,

You very kindly offered to further our coal business in any way in your power. I now think that a note from you to Sir John to the following effect would be of use to us:—

"During my trip in the N.W. I had the opportunity of visiting the place in the S. Saskatchewan coal district where my son & others interested with him are busy in opening up one of the numerous seams found in this locality. They have already expended a good deal of money in the enterprise and seem to be going about their work

2/ in a practical business
like way. They now tells me
that it is the intention of the
syndicate, now engaged in
opening up the mine, to
organize on a more extensive
& permanent scale, so soon
as they receive definite
assurances from your depart-
ment that their claim will
be recognized and the privilege
of purchasing at an upset price
guaranteed, as I understand
has been promised.
If you can facilitate their
~~operations~~ applications in any
way I need hardly say that
it will be conferring a personal
obligation."
Pardon my dictating! but
Most letters, especially anything
referring to the possible value
of the location, would only

3/ injure our prospects, whereas this I believe would do good.

I have despatched your box of specimens as desired, and also took an opportunity of calling on Him, only to find that most of his specimens were for show not use. He has the two common varieties of prairie gopher, a good many species of ornamental birds and some fine buffalo and elk heads: nothing else.

I have read with interest your Minneapolis address, as indeed everyone must into whose hands it finds its way. You speak, towards the beginning, of the shoreless sea of primeval times, and of the

H/ aqueous rocks deposited on this bottom as being possibly the earliest formations which we can ever know. But why might we not hope to find the original crust which constituted the bottom of such sea? Why indeed might not the Laurentian granites and gneisses be this original crust, deposited possibly not by water, but crystallized in successive layers on the surface of the placid molten mass, since I presume, there could have been no winds to disturb it's surface before there was any atmosphere to harbour them? Is this impossible & absurd? Perhaps so; but it occurred to me in reading it, that however shoreless the sea might have been it must have had a pretty thick & substantial partition to separate it from the raging fires within. With all kind regards

Your affec Son

J Rankine