



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.

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My dear Foster,

When I wrote the other day it seems I forgot to mention that I had intended writing you. When Dr Hunt was here some time since he spoke of making arrangements to have the specimens of the B. Assn., & particularly that of the Rocky Mountains before the meeting, the people to go off in detachments as happened to suit them. This with the idea of not interfering with attendance at Am. Assn. meeting. Now this may suit Dr H., but is otherwise nonsense. It begins with the action taken by Montreal, the Canadian part, C.P.R. &c is not for the purpose of bringing out the B. Assn. people to attend the Am. meeting at all, though Dr H. evidently intends to utilize it in that way for his own private glorification (greatly) & second, for the reason that proper accommodation in the way of Pullman Cars &c. could not be

provided for the proposed rocky Mountain
 excursion unless they go in a body at a
 fixed time. Further they could have no furniture
 & could see nothing. But from the car windows,
 if the excursion is to be made at all it
 must be made properly, & Dr Hunt's proposal
 simply ~~is~~ kills it, for the purpose of
 helping out the American meeting.

Secondly about the survey people & buying at home
 best services. I feel sure anything of the sort you
 general kind would not be listened to by the
 Govt. & think it should not be. It would be
 equivalent to taking a years work of a dept.
 costing say at least \$50,000 besides any food
 that the surveys which might be accomplished
 might be of. A few of the men who are out
 far off might attend the meeting on their
 own account. My view is that on the whole
 it would be more creditable to the survey to keep
 out of the way out of sight than to show them,