

George

Rideau Club

Ottawa

9 March 84

My dear Father,

I have been putting off
writing for a long time I fear, but
under the impression, which I
hope is correct, that you have
more regular news from Anna,
who is a good correspondent, &
so far as I can judge the only
really sensible one of your children.
The weather continues very steadily
cold & we have immense piles
of snow in the streets & very
prominent a carnival of
slush before long. I have made

as yet but a small hole in
 by winter's work, which is
 amazing. The relations of the
 Cambrian beds I see, however,
 seem working into, & here in
 by our mind pretty well decided
 that the Bell River series of my
 preliminary reports is really below
 the Pierre, both the yellow & white
 beds. I have looked into the
 fossils a little, but they don't
 appear capable of giving much light.
 They are evidently in the main
 those of the Judith R series of the
 Museum of U.S. geologists, but
 this instead of ~~show~~ proving that
 the disputed beds are above the
 Pierre goes to show, I believe, that

the so called Judith R series
 itself is also below the Pierre.
 They was much of Hayden's original
 supposition advanced through
 doubtfully by them in early reports.
 (See Trans Acad Nat Sci Phil. 1857
 p. 114) It was only afterwards
 that they narrowed themselves into
 the belief, from palaeont. evidence,
 that the beds represented a
 Tertiary development or lower
 part of the Lt. Union. The
 position you will see is a disputing
 one as it involves upsetting
 a great part of the Upper Missouri
 section. one of the chief reasons
 on which they based their subsequent
 belief of position of J.R. beds was

the discovery that beds immediately
 below them had been supposed to be
 Fort Hill (or 205-) from analogy with
 other subsequently found Fort Hill. The
 fossils from the particular beds at
 J.R., however, are figured by me
 on three separate plates in his
 Palaeont. of Wp. Missouri. (plates
 36-37-38) if I remember right) Part
 of them are very like a few fossils
 found in the part of the Belly R
 Series which I have referred to
 in previous letters as 'White beds'
 one at least identical, & as there
 is no possible doubt about position
 of White beds below Recre- or
 at least a subgy stables
 which may represent the

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upper part of the ^{Ottawa} Pierre in
the parts of west, but is
well charged with characteristic
marine fossils — the exclusive
for the character of the ~~subject~~
formation of beds below J.R.
Lies on the Missouri breaks
down. The beds (Belz & beds)
on the arrangement now adopted
fall into line with the Lower or
Dunwoody Sandstones of the
Peace R sections, though again
it must be admitted that chals
below them have more of a Pierre
than a Benton aspect, though
with somewhat mixed faunas.

A parliamentary committee has
 been appointed lately to examine
 into Geol. Survey Affairs with the
 ostensible object of finding out
 whether something was in way
 of gaining information on mineral
 statistics & every in progress
 cannot be done, but really I
 fancy put up by someone with
 some general object in view
 possibly by some of the men who
 don't seem hostile to Selwyn.
 As for, however, I don't think
 they are likely to make very
 much of the work. My intention
 in the whole affair is to report

to add of the slightest. I hope
 you will not hurry back to
 Canada too long in advance of
 the B. Assn. Meeting. The people
 in Montreal seem at least to be
 awakened to the sense of their
 responsibility in the meeting & are
 working by various committees &
 a resolution for a public meeting
 is circulating here, with the view
 of appointing a committee to make
 proper arrangements to receive
 members on Sept. 3; when
 they are expected to visit. I don't
 see why you should return to
 England in April when you
 might pass by the way in June.

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more general climate &
fayer & less Scottish people.
If you have any thing to write
about your father's experiences
you will find, I am sure,
the environment much
more suggestive & inspiring
anywhere but in foggy fleshy
England in Spring, at the
Season when the worldly buds
are endeavoring to get out.

Yours

George.

Kind regards to Mother &
Ira.