

Victoria B.C., December 11<sup>th</sup> 1876

My dear Professor

Last September I sent to Professor Hensley of the Smithsonian a comparative vocabulary of the Haida Language accompanied with a few remarks, and suggested to the Professor that Queen Charlottes Islands present a comparatively new field for scientific work and stating my readiness to undertake a cruise there for that purpose.

I have recently received a letter from the Department of the Interior written by Major J.W. Powell Geologist in charge of the U.S. geographical and geological survey of the Rocky mountain region who writes that the vocabulary will be published by the Smithsonian Institution immediately.

He adds. "With regard to the work in which you wish to engage at some future time on Queen Charlottes Islands, permit me to suggest that you make an estimate of the amount of funds necessary to prosecute with reasonable thoroughness, the the investigations which you desire to make". In making a scientific exploration of those interesting Islands it is very desirable that I should go in company with some one of the gentlemen connected with the geological survey of British Columbia, and Dr Powell has suggested that I write to you.

I wish to confine myself exclusively to Archaeology, Ethnology and to making sketches of interesting objects. By going in company with you to attend to the Geological and Astronomical portion, we could mutually aid each other and produce results of far more importance than one could do alone.

If you think favorably of this proposition please write me at Fort Townsend Washington Territory, and as soon as I can arrange my plans in a tangible form I will write you more at length.

Very truly yours

James G. Swan

Prof J.W. Dawson  
 Com of Prof Selwyn  
 Geological Survey office  
 Montreal  
 Canada

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Dec 11-77.

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