

Pictou Feb. 27, 1845-

Dear Sir,

One reason of my wish to return to Pictou on Saturday, was that I felt sure that if I could do anything else to aid the committee in their inquiry, I would be more likely to think of it when among my books and specimens at home, than when in Halifax. Nothing has occurred to me, however, of any importance.

In speaking of a survey, I mentioned fifty pounds as sufficient to allow for excavations, in one summer. It might however be useful to obtain the aid of chemists, palaeontologists, &c in Britain or the U. States, to decide particular points; and the person employed should have money at his disposal to enable him to do this if necessary; being required however to account for his expenditure. Persons employed in

Such surveys are too apt, as I suppose you well know, to waste time in inquiries not included in their commission; and not to be over anxious about completing their work in reasonable time. This might be partly remedied ^{altogether} by a particular district or group of rocks, as the objects of one year's examination, and specifying particularly the objects of inquiry. No reasonable man would object to this, if properly done, and it would tend to cheapness.

I found a letter from Mr Syell waiting for me at home. He informs me that a paper on the Newer coal formation, which I sent last autumn to the Geol. Society, has been read, and will be published (with another which I sent last winter, on the Older Carboniferous rocks) in a new 'Journal' issued by the Society. The first number of the Journal appeared on the first of February.

These papers contain a nearly complete

account of the Coal formation of Pictou,
and as soon as I receive the printed
copies, I will send them to you that
you may read them.

Do not overlook the general views
of the distribution of the coal fields, which
I gave to the committee. You may
depend upon their general correctness,
and they are of importance to a correct
understanding of the extent of the coal-
formation.

You saw, I suppose, in the letter of Mr
Lyell which I had in Halifax, that he
wished no part of ~~it~~^{his papers} to be made pub-
lic in this country - from his manuscript -
You will please attend to this, though
any of the information contained in the papers
is at the service of the committee.

If any examination of parts of St John
or Cape Breton, should be undertaken

I would be very well pleased to devote a summer or part of one, to it or one of them. If I undertook anything of the kind I would endeavour to do justice to it and to prepare such a report as would (if published) be received with confidence by scientific men in other countries. Cape Breton is the best field of action you have to offer, to a geologist.

Delivered to
J. R. Munn
1843