

Pictou Oct 1849

Mr. Archibald

Dear Sir

I received yours of Sept 24  
only on the 11th October, the bearer of it  
having had a long passage. I avail my-  
self of the kindness of Mr. Stirling to send  
a reply.

On examining the specimen sent,  
I find that it is not an ore of Iron,  
but a compact variety of the mineral  
named Manganese Spar, a mineral  
of which I have not before seen a specimen  
in these colonies. It is composed of  
Oxide of Manganese, Silica and Car-  
bonic acid, in the forms of Silicate  
and Carbonate of Manganese. The  
surface of your specimen is coated with  
Black Peroxide of Manganese. This is a  
product of the decomposition of the Manganese

Japanese spar within which is of a brownish  
wh and fawn colour.

Manganese spar is hard and capable  
of taking a good polish and when  
of pleasing colours is sometimes cut  
for inlaid work. I know no other  
use to which it can be applied.  
The Peroxide of manganese which coats  
the surface of the specimens would if  
found in sufficient quantity be worth  
to be overvalued.

Letter

Ed. Schuchert

Oct 1894