

149

St James Hotel Boston Nov. 11. 1874

My dear Lesley,

as you desired I write to tell of our conference about a State Survey. We had the opinions of many given at length a Committee of Pierce, Shaler, Scudder & myself. & upon a plan we met yesterday. Writing of the C. Survey was summoned. & it was deemed advisable to have an accurate topogr survey at the scaled 25000. or 30000. This, it is declared, will cost \$200,000, & Moses Kimball, who holds the State purse strings, thinks we can get \$300,000, or 20,000 for 15 years. So, say our Committee, 200,000 for topogr; & 50,000 each for geol. & Biology. i.e. a little over \$3000 a year for each! I protested, & said what we need is a careful study of our ~~the~~ rocks. Chem. mineralog. & micr. & an investigation of the whole economic materials of the State. demanding a geologist in charge a labry & a chemist. & requiring not less than \$6000 a year. The men have no conception of this, whatever: prob-~~prob~~ the laboratory. & have no notion but that mapping down (when the topogr. is complete) some years since. The outlines of formations & the or rather of the various lithologic divisions. This was done 30 years ago - but it but a small part of what we want to-day. I protested, & shall again protest against any such scheme. but dare not protest there. Of course the whole matter will again come up in the legislature & may get a chance to be heard. If not I drop the whole matter in disgust & discouragement. I had hoped to be able to apply my knowledge to the working out of the geol. of Mass. but this scheme gives ^{me} no chance whatever. If you think you can do good by writing to Mrs Hubbard I shall be glad. - I want \$25000 a year; of this 14000 for topogr. is a scandale with the views of the C. S. men. 6000, say for geol. & 4000 Biology. The work for this is nearly done by the school of zoologists, who have been educated at such a vast expense to the Commonwealth. The last 20 years. but for Geol. Mineral & Chem. they have been utterly neglected & the work must be begun.

I am gloomy enough. My whole schemes in life here failed. I death would be welcome could I live over again the halcyon hours & years past! Lonely, lonely, lonely: God help me & those who depend upon me. Give my warmest regards to Mrs. Lesley & your children. I shall soon profit the pleasant hospitality of your home.

Prof. D. P. Lesley -

Always Yours
J. Henry Hunt