

Ottawa Aug 31st 1881

My dear Dr Dawson.

The time has soon arrived when I leave for Piquette's Rapids. The party leaves the city next Monday Sept. the 5th. and will meet Mr. C. H. Hunt of Utica N. Y. at Carleton Place en route for the rapids. The season at which we are going could not be a better one, for the water is at its lowest records for the last quarter of a century. Therefore the prospects for a good search and good results seem favourable. We are about all ready to go, 4 of us only, that number is just enough because if more came the trophies would be the more divided. I hope to supply & equip myself with additional geological appliances, which the Survey places at my disposal for better conducting the operations. You will remember that I collect only for Mitchell (or yourself) & for myself. There are hopes of good work to be done.

Perhaps I had better take notes on the stratigraphy of the place, if as far as practicable. The party expects to visit not only the rapids themselves but likewise the southern shore of Allumette Island & on Islands all round there, where the same series of rocks are represented.

During the season past it has been

my good fortune to continue my investigations into the Utica slate and allied formations of this district and am satisfied that the results obtained are highly satisfactory, not that I wish to boast of it, but when we see that something like 40 (or 50) species have been obtained from that formation while but some 10 are recorded in the Palaeontology Report of Ontario by Nicholson. If my health continues it will afford me much gratification to write a short paper on it - though if I could time to visit first such places as Collingwood or Whitby where the same formation occurs.

I hope to return to McGill about 15th September to resume my course there and go on with my honours in Natural Sciences. I feel confident that I will be allowed to continue in them and that my health is such as to enable to prosecute my studies for the next session.

I spent some 3 weeks around Joliette P.Q. & Berthier ^(in health) districts, where I came in contact again with some interesting things in Trenton rocks and Chazy formation. Spent some time in Montreal and expected (almost) to see you there, last week. While there it was with great pleasure that I saw your election as President of the

A. A. S. It is to be hoped the Museum
will be in order for the time of the
meeting in Montreal next year. The
contractors seem to take their time with it.
The building is simply magnificent.

Some few weeks ago I had written to
Dr Johnson (Vice Pres.) as to course
to pursue ~~to~~ and expressing my case
to him. He seems to think that I
have "Supplementals" to pass next
September. I hope they won't ask me to
pass in work "Part & Honour" of third
year" which was done over 1 1/2 years
ago. I wish I had known that previously.
Yes I hope to go on with honour
course - and though I've been rather
in some say: "influenza" (still D.T.) I
expect to finish next session.

Mr. Billings tells me he thinks the
expenses will not exceed \$25. freight
all included - we stay there a week.
I shall try get some in advance
and when in Montreal - we will
settle it.

Hoping that your strength
both in body and mind is renewed
for the coming session, believe me Sir

to be
Yours faithfully
Henry M. Blair

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