

S. J. Kent

Septem. 12. 1849

Dear Sir

I take advantage of the kind offer of the bearer W. A. Kenzie, to send you a ~~copy~~ specimen of what has been brought to me as iron ore - taken from near the shore of Onception Bay between Topsail + Holywood - You will discover the position on reference to Jakes's plan - I shall feel obliged, if at your earliest convenience, you will so far oblige as to test it, as to be able to let me know the ingredients.

As much haste as the bearer is waiting, I am dear Sir

Very truly Yours

Edw. A. Whitfield

Received yours of Sept 12 only on the
11th Oct - The heaver having had a long
journey - On examining the specimen
sent I find that it is not an
ore of iron - It is a ^{compact} variety
of the mineral named Manganese Spar
with its surfaces coated with ^{black} Ferric
of Manganese. Its constituents are
oxide of Manganese, silica and
carbonic acid - The coat of black
Ferric of Manganese on the surface
is a result of the decomposition of the
silicate of carbonate of Manganese with

You would perhaps observe that its black
Coating is only superficial. The mineral
within being of light brown & grey
colours, The inner part is a compact
mass of the mineral named Mangnese
Spur and is composed of Oxide of Manganese
- silica & carb acid. It is siliceous
and carbonate of Manganese. The Black
outer coat is Peroxide of Manganese
mixed with silica and is the result of
the decomposition of the surface of the
Manganese Spur.

The Manganese Spur is of no service
except that which it takes a good polish and
when of good colour is sometimes used for
ornamental work. The Black Peroxide of Manganese
of found in carbons quantity could be polished
but ~~it is~~ because it ~~is~~ cannot not be highly
specimens of it are to be seen. It will however
be worth while to ask the persons who bring
it if any considerable parts of the black oxide
are found in the veins —

Letter
E M Archibald
Sept 1899

John M. Dawson Esq

Run by
Mr McKenzie
Pictou
N.S.

Recd Oct 1