

From Mr Charles Lyell M.P.
to Sir Henry, Duke of Devon & Somerset
Berlin March 17. 1855.

My dear Sir Henry

I have just heard from Scotland that the friends of Mr Dawson are desirous of printing all the certificates written on his behalf as candidate for the vacant chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. Among other documents they wish for a copy of a letter which I addressed to the Secy of the Home Department (Sir G. Grey) on this subject, but as I do not return from Germany for some weeks I have no copy of my letter at hand, you will I am sure have the kindness, when you have read this, to forward it to Edinburgh if you think it would serve the same purpose.

I know that you appreciate highly as I do the printed papers of Mr Dawson on the Coal Fields of Nova Scotia & other subjects in the Journal of the Geological Socy. of London. I have twice had an opp

tunity when travelling with him in North America of estimating his great power of original observation in the field, many of the results of which he has given in his published papers.

I can also state that Dr Hooker is of opinion that the views & occasional speculations on the structure & probable relations of fossil plants set forth in several of the Dawson's memoirs on the Carboniferous strata display much acute & sound judgment & botanical knowledge. Mineralogy has been a favourite pursuit of Mr Dawson & he has made no small progress in Zoology -

That any man should be eminent in all the branches embraced

by the Edinburgh Chair, especially
one under the age of 34, is of
course impossible, but with due
reference to Mr Dawson's age,
I consider his attainments as very
remarkable & combining them as
he does with zeal & enthusiasm for
Science & a philosophical mind he
indeed is I believe one of the few
who would if elected prove a worthy
successor to our late lamented friend
Prof - E. Forbes.

Mr Dawson has had consi-
derable practice in public speaking
when officially employed in Nova Scotia
as Inspector of Schools & he has been
successful as a lecturer.

The Gov^l Genl of Canada, Sir Ed-
mund Head who is personally ac-
quainted with Mr Dawson & who ap-
pointed him to some post connected

with the improvement of public education in New Brunswick has written a letter in his favour to the Secretary of State for the Home Department;

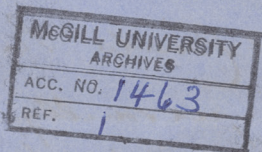
On my return to London in a few weeks I shall be happy to give any additional information which may be desired -

I believe in

my dear Sir Henry
ever truly yr

Chadwell

Sir H. DelaBeche, C.B.
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