

53 Harley St London
W.
Dec 6. 1865

My dear Dawson

I am going to dictate a reply to
Tom on the scientific subjects alluded to in your
last letter.

I was much interested in hearing that you were not
satisfied with the evidence of Eozoon in the
Commenens limestone as I began to think with
Logan that they were beginning to find it in rocks
of too many ages & localities. Prof King & his associ-
ated friend Howney are to read a paper soon
on the subject to the Geol. Soc. & we shall then
hear what they have to say.

I wish you had spent more than a day at St
Acheul as in that case you would have been
well satisfied with the old implements like
the associated elephantine & other remains
were immeasurably anterior to the Roman

epoch.

Your ^{great} paper on the coal will I expect be read in an abridged form about a month hence. I am not on the Council at present though I shall probably return next year. I have heard that the Officers fully appreciating the importance of your memoir have been consulting what to do with it; whether to regard it as more than one paper & to divide it in reading & publication. I believe they have at last determined to have an abridgement made so as to read all at once in order to give your general results & conclusions drawn from the whole. When it was said that for

the same reason the entire MS must be
printed together I hear it was replied (I was
not present at these discussions) that the length of the
paper would be unprecedented & if printed with
the President's anniversary speech would certainly
fill a whole quarterly number & so prove distasteful
to the Association by causing the delay of other papers.

Nothing was definitely settled because it was
observed that they must first have the written
opinion of referees on the paper before the
question & method of bringing it out need be
entertained.

In the meantime I think it would be as well for
you to send me a letter with any suggestions

Lyon Dec 18

as to your wishes supposing the referees were
to recommend either a division of the memoir
into two or ^{more parts or} an abridgement of parts of it.

If the former plan were adopted the results obtained
from such parts as were first printed might
perhaps be stated separately. I throw out this
idea somewhat in the dark not having read the
paper, but I learnt from the Assist. Sec that
it had been remarked that Dawson had sent enough
to make a book rather than a memoir.

There will I am sure be every disposition to do
what they can to get it out.

I was glad to hear of your safe arrival - as to the reign of pygmies which you anticipated I sometimes have my fears, but I suspect that Buckland, Combe, De la Beche & others may have looked upon Murchison, myself when we began, much in the same light before Darwin & Prestwich had been heard of. My wife & I were very sorry not to have seen more of you during your late visit - We are all well, believe me my dear Dawson ever most truly yours
Chas Lyell