

Sir C. Fell
Nov 22^d 1869
53. Harley St. London

My dear Dawson

I have been intending for weeks to write & say how much pleased we have been to make acquaintance with your son who has been much welcomed in Jersey St. & about whom I have talked with Sir R. Morehen & others. I was glad to find that he had been able to take part with you in the Gaspe' exploration and the account he gave me of what you saw there of the Devonian plants, and the names of their owners gave me a better

idea than I had had before
of those various strata & greater
promise of future discoveries.
Your finding a Cephalaspis was
really a splendid hit & the
botany is surprising when contrasted
with our short-comings in the
same field.

Finding that I should be several
years before I could get out a
new edition of the Elements, and the
6th Edition being out of print
& the book in great demand, I
have been persuaded to try & bring
out an abridgement leaving out a
great deal of the foreign matter
& keeping chiefly to what the
English students care for most.
But in spite of my resolutions

to the contrary, I cannot help
plunging into discussion on contro-
verted questions which delays the
book & may perhaps defeat my
scheme. Every body who wishes most
for a short & cheap Elements, &
recommends the present book being
used largely on all these branches
think they care least about costs
as to enlarge the Chapter which relates
to what they are specially devoted to.

I rather of one short volume I should
own have a 3 volume book, if I
desire to take advice from persons well
competent to help me in their own line.

Every one feels that I do that in
order to explain any subject to beginners,
you must have room to expand.
Condensation may do very well for
adepts, but is not the way to teach
those who have every thing to learn.

In fact a short & cheap book
which shall be elementary to beginners
is an impossibility & as this class
of youths do not find any thing
but a small book suitable for their
purposes & the time they can give to
the subject I must let them go on
complaining that all the brief Manuals
which they can afford to buy are very
dry, a list of names which give
them no ideas & are after very
difficult for want of more explanation.
What will be the end of my experiment
I cannot say. But in the mean time
I have learnt much by having seriously
to consider that I could best spare
of the old version.

Lady Lyell who has been
writing this from dictation is going to add
a word or two to Mr Dawson

believe me
ever most truly yr
Cha Lyell

