

Oliver Mich

6 Dec 1870

My Dear Sir

I see a very brief notice of your last University Lecture in the Public Business and from the title there given I should like to see it and therefore ask you to oblige me by sending a copy if it has been printed. I am of course acquainted with your views in regard to Scientific education but it will interest me to see your more matured convictions expanded, as I know they will fully be, in the published Lecture. I am the more interested in such questions having now myself personally to engage in them. No doubt my special

Where is Mental Philosophy and its
allied Studies still I find that out
here one must make himself generally
useful. Altho it seems *infra dig.* for
the Chair of such a lofty Philosophy
as that of the Mind to condescend to take
care of Material Phenomena,
yet as necessarily is a most impetuous
law-maker I have had to do what
I would not otherwise choose to do.
I have had to teach two branches
of Science, Geology & Botany.
I have recalled all I ever heard or
saw while in Montreal of this noble
Science, and written up all sorts of
Books & Fossils that I might do the
best I could. One thing I find that
I know the Laurentian & the Siberian
better than any of the Text books. This
is a Comfort. In Botany I am
at home. The Chief difficulty I have

in Geology is the want of Specimens.
Our Museum is very small. It is much
like what W. H. C. College was where you
first went to it & it was burned up
in the fire. I have been trying to improve
it & have done something. We can get
the fossils of the Carboniferous very well.
We live right in the heart of the Marshall
Group of the Sub-C. so called by Truettell.
What it contains we have gathered.
But I cannot get satisfactory
Silurian fossils. I have written
to one or two parties in Montreal
to buy & get me a lot out of the
Surrey, but without success. If I
were on the spot myself I could
get them. I have been wondering
if I could not possibly interest
you, in this little matter of bene-
volence, I know it is a trouble
But I know also unless I ask
I shall never get. If you could
in any way influence the Officers
of the Surrey to let me have a box

Rivers Kemp

or two of their numerous publications
you would do a large but struggling
Institution out here in the heart
of Michigan a noble service.

Have you seen Murchell's
Book? Is it not Science gone mad!
So outrageous with its plutonisms
that I felt inclined to go to the library
extreme by way of silent protest.

Have you seen what he calls his
Geological Map? I was led to in-
vest in it and think I was sold.
It may be useful in the absence of
any other but it is to me frightful!
How antipodal to Sir W Logan's
beautiful work! I like this place
and the work amazingly well! We
have 260 Students altogether. I
am very busy. I take Mental
Phil. Rhetoric Ancient History
& Geology — Must do all this! There
are six Professors besides assistants,
I will send you a Catalogue with
some regards. I am Yours truly
Rivers Kemp