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Dr. Dawson

My dear Sir

I thank you for your kind letter of the 25th, and all your suggestions with regard to the Geology. In my revision of the book (which has now reached the Triassic Period) I have adopted your term Academic group for the St John's Primordial, and have introduced a figure of the Psilophyton. Besides giving a pretty full statement of the Devonian flora in which I transfer back to the Devonian the introduction of the

subject of fossil plants which
is now under the Carboniferous.
Your book has helped me much
with facts. I do not feel
satisfied that the so-called
Silurian land plants are in
Silurian. If I understand the
case they occur in limestones
or with limestones that afford
~~which afforded~~ the Rensselaeria
ovoides and some thin Oriskany
Sandstone fossils, along with Upper
Silurian. It is more probable that
Upper Silurian ^{life} should hold over
that that the Rensselaeria be
should begin before this time;
and therefore I am disposed
to regard the ^{upper} limestone beds
of Gaspe. as probably Oriskany.
I do not see that
we gain as much as we
lose in substituting Oriskany for

Devonian. As to some of Serquey's names, I am a good deal in his hands; for he offered some time since to revise my names of plants, and I accepted of the offer. I have not yet his emendations, so that I cannot report upon them. He may for all I ^{now} know, adopt your names.

It appears to me your objection to Subcarboniferous is hardly well founded. Sub in Substructure, ^{as to this word} does not mean something independent of the structure beneath it, but the lowest or basement part of it. So with Substratum, Subsoil. No one has ever yet named the period otherwise. I have thought of calling it the Waverley

period from the Subcarbonif.
rocks of Ohio, or the Marshall
period, from such rocks in
Michigan, the Alleghany period,
etc.; but I cannot satisfy
myself that either of these
names is better than Subcarb.
Mountain limestone period would
be absurd. If you think
Alleghany period better I should
be inclined to adopt it. It would
^{be hard however to} reconcile geologists to applying the
name to the period of the great
Subcarb. limestones of the
Mississippi valley. Mississippi
period has been proposed, but is
bad. Iowa period or Illinois
period might answer - but
don't seem satisfactory.

The Cambrian turns out to
be true Primordial, and
therefore, as I think, the name

is no longer needed.

The Primordial includes
the Acadian group & the
Potodan, as the first part
of the Silurian. Cambrian
if any when is the first
period of the Silurian age,
Synonymous with Primordial.
The Cambrian in England &
Babesia is conformable to
the overlying Lower Silurian
and is distinct from it
only in the character of a
few genera of trilobites; so
that there is no basis for
the separation of it from
the Silurian.

I have written freely
my views as they now
stand, and would assure
you that I shall be

Jana 12/17

always glad to have
your advice.

Yours truly

James H. Dana

P.S. I thank you for the copies of
your articles.