

Bailez

Fredericton Jan 4 3rd 72-

My dear Dr. Dawson

Your letter of Dec 28th has just reached me. The publishers of the Naturalist were not able to find the extra copies of the article on Grand Manan, (which had been struck off but in some way mislaid), but have forwarded to me instead several copies of the entire number in which the article appeared, which will answer quite as well.

With reference to Prof. Bailez I may say that owing to sickness and bereavement in my own family, I have not had much personal intercourse with him, but so far as I can judge he is in every way well qualified to fill the chair which he here occupies. He is a perfect gentleman, of agreeable presence and social disposition, and if remaining here would I have no doubt, be successful in his work. Unfortunately, however, he had not

long been with us more than a few weeks when without consultation with Dr. Jack he published an article in the Provincial Wesleyan (the organ of Sackville Academy and opposed I believe to our University) in which he decied in strong terms the whole educational system of the country, and said among other things that the universities here (including our own, Dalhousie & Kings) were inferior in dignity and efficiency to any first class public school in Great Britain. This and other equally sweeping assertions, coming from one so young, who had scarcely been here a month, and who knew absolutely nothing of any department here except his own, knowing too, nothing of the actual possibilities as well as requirements of our school system, certainly seemed very imprudent if nothing more, and naturally provoked a good deal of adverse comment, and some degree of coldness between himself and Dr. Jack. In addition to this he has been proposing and trying to introduce all sorts of reforms, some of which no doubt are in themselves desirable, but which, for various

reasons are not at present expedient. From this you may infer that many are disposed to look upon him as somewhat officious and meddling, if not actually presuming. As for myself, I think that much of this arises from excess of zeal, and a naturally impetuous disposition, but others do not regard it in this light, and hence the probability of his departure. Of his scholarship I think there can be no doubt. His public oral examinations of the students at the end of the last term were certainly very favorably regarded by all who heard them. It is in my opinion that the college will be a loss if he goes.

I made quite a number of observations on the Lower Carboniferous of 185 and Albert last summer, but as they will ^{be} given in full in the supplementary Rept which I am now preparing, I will ^{not} here repeat them. I think there must be a large box of fossils from Perry somewhere in the Survey office. They were sent on two or more ago, but

I have never heard anything about them.

Dr. Jack desires me to say that in the appointment of a teacher of modern languages a knowledge of German, though desired, is not by any means a sine qua non. A good teacher of French provided he is a gentleman and of good moral character would be accepted -

Please give my kind regards to Mrs. and Miss Dawson, and believe me

very sincerely yours
L. W. Binley -

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