

Philadelphia Jan. 6. 1872

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My dear Sir

Your very kind letter of the 18<sup>th</sup> ult. was duly received, and ought to have been answered ere this. — I have been prevented from replying earlier partly by an unusual pressure of business and partly by a temporary illness — I also hoped

to see and consult  
with my friend Mr Ed-  
ward D. Cope with whom  
I had some talk several  
weeks since about his  
writing an article on Pa-  
laeontology - In this I  
have been disappointed;  
and I feel I must not  
delay writing any longer.

In answer to your  
inquiries I would say  
that I desire especially  
that you would write

the article on general  
geology - not merely be-  
cause I know that you  
are eminently competent to  
do so - but also because  
I fear that if I commit-  
ted the task to some  
other, my work might  
become the means of  
disseminating theories of  
which I entirely disap-  
prove - theories which tho'  
resting (as it seems to me)  
on the slightest possible



Dr Murray

Edhel

Jan 172

In the proposed article  
on Geology, I should wish  
to combine, as far as prac-  
ticable, scientific solidity  
and accuracy with a pop-  
ular presentation of the  
subject - tho' I should  
consider the former much  
more important than the  
latter. - The plan of  
my work contemplates giv-  
ing the different divisions  
of a science (as much  
as possible) each in-

der its particular head  
Consequently Lithology and  
Palaeontology would form  
separate articles. Still  
I should not wish  
you to leave out of  
your article anything  
which you might deem  
necessary to its clearness  
and completeness. In  
so short an article (com-  
paratively speaking) much  
of course would have  
to be omitted - but of

By the article were finished in July, 1872  
it would be in ample time

should wish to have what  
is given, presented clearly  
and fully - These remarks  
are only offered as sug-  
gestions - I feel sure you  
can judge much better  
than I how the sub-  
ject should be treated.  
But as you have asked  
respecting the <sup>relative</sup> prominence  
to be given to certain  
branches of the subject,  
I should say (so far

as I understand it  
that Paleontology - as  
this furnishes the char-  
acters, the language, in  
which geological reve-  
lations are written - ought  
certainly to have a prom-  
inent place. I am

with the highest respect

Yours truly

J. Thomas

J. W. Dawson L. D. F. R. S.