

J Hunt

Boston Nov. 20. 1875

Dear Dr. Dawson

I got yesterday yr charming volume "The Dawn of Life" & read it all through at a sitting. I think your presentation of the question so convincing as to put to silence henceforth the few doubters. The illustrations are beautiful. I doubt not that there will probably be another edition if not indeed a reprint in the U.S. and so I send you a list of notes and emata. I regret that I am made to appear as a prophet after the fact, as to organic life in the Laurentian. You will see that I had been preaching the doctrine long before the discovery. Mine was a voice crying in the Laurentian wilderness - if I may make such an allusion. I should feel much obliged if you would take some opportunity to correct the statement - perhaps by a word in Nature. I am greatly obliged for your desire to do full justice to me for my share

in the investigation, and am much  
pleased to see my original paper reprinted  
in an accessible form - including my  
last shot at King & Rowley, which I  
had never seen before in print. It  
looks now like powder wasted - for  
they seem to have gone out of sight -

There now in hand a quasi-popu-  
lar Essay on "Ancient Rocks" or rather a  
volume which I propose to make somewhat  
larger than your own last one - perhaps  
to be offered to Appleton for his Intercon-  
tinal series. I shall discuss briefly the  
theory of the origin of rocks, their kinds,  
their mineralogy etc. including logics  
of the ~~large broad~~ broad outlines of spaleo-  
zoic geology and mineralogy - I think  
I shall borrow from you the suggestion  
of a series of appendices in small  
type for more scientific detail -  
I think such a volume will supply a want  
I have long thought over the matter of some  
fanciful way of stating my views & bringing



into an accessible form a great number of observations  
& generalizations and now think my present plan the  
best. I hope when I see you in Montreal  
two months hence to have my plan much ad-  
vanced. I hear nothing definite from  
Ottawa except that as I perhaps told you  
Mr. Laugel said he understood there was  
an understanding that Brown should be appointed  
and that Baker Edwards was only to get  
a subordinate position in Montreal - I am  
longing to get to some place where I can get  
around me some of the comforts of a home.

I am now taking occasion to put into  
order and catalogue my large rock collection  
Irish I know what to do with it, or where to  
place it when I have no further use for it. I  
must buy and find first a purchaser, or if not  
some one who will take it & give it a place.  
I sometimes feel as if my own work was nearly  
done, disappointments grow with years & I am  
well nigh disheartened with life's failures.  
A quiet den where I could do a little chem-  
istry for the rest of my days & get bread for  
myself & my sister is now the height of  
my ambition —

Dear you are

announced as "illustrated" in the last  
Paper Science Monthly. There is not  
seen it. A similar fate awaits me  
my photo being in the hands of the  
Editor for the same Magazine.

I do not know whether there is  
already sent you my reply to Dawson  
but send you a copy by this mail.

Accept again my kindest wishes  
most welcome volume & with best  
regards believe me. Dear Dr Dawson

Always yours

J. Stern Mull

Have you seen Powell's report of the geology  
of the Colorado lately published? In his  
sketch of the mountain formations he has  
given grand illustrations of the theory of  
mountains which I have helped to defend.  
I shall take an early occasion to send you on some cur-  
ious androscites from Southern Virginia one peculiar  
called "Dand Cool" also a fossiliferous.

Principal Dawson &c