

The Palace,  
St. Asaph.

Sept 23 1887

My dear Sir William

We were very sorry not  
to have you among us at  
Manchester especially when  
your proposal for Imperial  
Federation in Geology was being  
discussed -

The Secretary & Treasurer of  
the Royal Society met the  
delegates of the International

Geological Congress and some  
other representatives of English  
Geology and we endeavoured  
to formulate a scheme by  
which your proposal could  
be carried out and yet the  
new organisation be so  
constituted as not to clash  
with the International Congress.  
A simple resolution to that

effect was passed and will  
be communicated to you -  
I endeavoured to explain my  
own views on the matter  
somewhat as follows -

As far as mere correlation of  
geological phenomena is concerned  
we necessarily find that a close  
interchange of observations with  
our colleagues on the other side  
of the English Channel is of more



importance than a knowledge  
of the geology of more distant  
regions though in other respects  
we are now drawn together.

But, that accessible reference

to all the work of English

speaking geologists is a great

want -

So I saw room for the Congress

and for your new Society -

Your new Society might well

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discuss all matters of  
nomenclature before they come  
before Congress, so that we  
might agree as to what form  
of words would be accepted  
by English speaking peoples.  
It might watch all new terms  
introduced into our language;  
Devise some method of registration  
of new words, so as to reduce  
the synonymy and provide for



one respect being shown for  
priority of nomenclature -

The Congress might discuss the  
more general questions of the  
laws which shall guide the  
grouping of strata, the value  
of the divisions, the "hierarchy"

generally - as well as the  
equivalent terms in various  
languages - The discussion

of the two bodies may often  
overlap but never clash -

Neither of these bodies should  
be made up of existing Societies,  
~~Associations~~ or Official Institutions,  
though these might safely be  
allowed ex officio representation.

The first publication of your  
Society might take very much  
the form of the Geological Reporter  
but strong subcommittees would  
soon be developed which would

Hughes

for authoritative opinions of  
various disputed points -

We felt that we required further  
explanation as to the functions  
to be discharged by the proposed  
organisation - distinct from those  
of the Congress - and so ended  
with a general expression of

Sympathy with the object as

far as we understood it and

separated to make further enquiries

before any action could be taken

Yours very sincerely  
Thos McKenny Hughes