Digby, Nova Scotia.
Sept. 20th, 1887.

Dear Sir William:

Your letters of Jany 28th & Feby. 26th 1887, together with your open letter addressed to Prof. Stokes, are before me. I assure you that it is not from indifference to yourself or to the subject that I have not replied before now. I have been so entirely overworked since the beginning of the year, together with causes for anxiety greater than ever before, that I could not, for want of strength, go outside of my daily work. From this overstrain I am now suffering severely and I came to this quiet place to get a few days of rest.

You will please consider what I may say of our doings as confidential, except that you are at liberty to speak of my own views on this subject.

I did hope that you would remain with us on the Committee, till the London Meeting, and if I did not so write you, I fully intended doing so. However that has passed.

I endeavoured to have the misunderstanding with Prof. Frazer arranged and I believe it was properly done.

I am by no means satisfied with the discussions on the work done at Berlin, and I think we

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have not mended matters by having the whole subject discussed before the Geological section of the A.A.A.S. This was done without assent, and I declined to participate in the debate.

I am entirely in accord with you in the conviction that we (English speaking Geologists) can never harmonize our views or our Nomenclature with the French or German notions on the subject.

I did think that we were making a little progress in the matter of our committee work, when I appointed a committee with Dr Newberry as chairman. This committee were to consider the subject of Nomenclature and report upon our position regarding the question at issue. But at a meeting held in April when I was too ill to preside there was a new departure made, and Reporters were appointed It does not become me to comment upon this action, but it really amounted to the placing of our Geology and Nomenclature in the hands of inexperienced men. These reports have been made to section E of the A.A.A.S. and there discussed. I was not able to take part in the discussion, because I was overworked with my volume and felt that I could not spare the strength to enter into a matter which must come before the full committee for final review.

I have just written a letter to Dr. Newberry proposing to meet him and any of the older members of the committee in New York for the purpose of reviewing the action of our reporters. I conceive this to be a matter of the first importance, for unless we can come to some better understanding we shall present a sorry appearance at the London Congress.

While I shall endeavour to work out some harmony among the members of our committee I feel that I shall be free to report such suggestions regarding nomenclature as I feel to be proper, acting upon the authority given me at the first meeting of the Congress in Paris. Up to this time I have seen no opportunity of offering anything, certainly there was none at Berlin, and there has been no better at our meetings.

If I can sustain the strain which must come upon me for the next six months in publishing a volume of my Palaeontology, I shall then be a little freed from the pressure of work, and I intend to ask for a vacation. I do not know that I can go to England, but if I cannot see you otherwise I will go to Montreal and have a full discussion with you and Hunt upon the more important points, and leave you free of any embarrasment on my account.

Yours very sincerely
James Hall

Sir William Dawson
etc etc

See Carroll Hall

Sept 1/87