

McGILL UNIVERSITY
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Penrith

June 8th / 76

My dear Principal

I have great pleasure in sending you with this a rough slide of the supposed Laurentian fossil, in such a condition as simply to require grinding to the requisite tenacity. Long before this reaches you, you will know that the whole thing has been a mistake, & a very unfortunate one. Dr Carpenter & myself were induced to take the matter up on the understanding that the specimens occurred in a bed of limestone. In this it appears we must have misunderstood Mr Thomson, who alone had seen the locality. Filled with this impression, we too hastily jumped to the con-

clusion that the specimens
were, as they looked, essentially
calcareous, & we both came to the
unheralded conclusion that they
were organic. It is a great pity that
anything should have been said
publicly about this, till a chemical
analysis had been made, but, of
course, we must take the consequences
of our precipitation, & make the
best of it. The specimens turn out
to be mineralogically a species
of graphic granite. They are not the
ordinary form of this rock, for the
felspar seems to be peculiar (poss-
ibly a kind of adularia), but still
they are composed of alternating layers
of felspar & silica. The arrangement

The mineral is also very unlike what one is accustomed to in normal specimens of graphic granite, & it is difficult to believe that this can be purely of mineral nature; but on this point you can judge for yourself. Altogether it has been a most unfortunate affair, & I fear that the Galway Professors will not let Dr Carpenter hear the last of it for some time to come.

I am glad to hear that you continue to work at Ezvön, in which personally I have always been a believer. If at any time you should have the opportunity of sending me a piece of the Ezvön Rock, I should greatly like one, as I have often to speak of it to my class & I have no actual

examples to show them.

I had a letter a few weeks ago
from my old friend Prof. Wilson,
who told me you had been staying
with him in Toronto. He seems
well, & as energetic as of old.
I am staying here in the Lake-
districts for a few weeks holiday,
but I have been doing little in
the way of out-door work, the weather
being very unfavourable.

With kind regards,

yours very truly

H. Alleyne Nicholson

Principal Dawson, F. R. S.
