

Albany, Sept 16th 1876

My dear Mr Dawson

I found your favor of the 30th ult awaiting me here on my return home a few days since, having been in Delaware county after the meeting at Buffalo. I wish it were in my power to do something for your son's advancement, for what I have read of his work and what I have heard of him have given me a very high idea of his ability and industry.

I have heard through Hunt that Whiteaker was a candidate for the place and had asked for his recommendation. Selwyn was in Philadelphia, as I learned from my son, with whom he talked about the place, (before Billings' death) and gave him such encouragement that he thought of applying for the situation, but I do not think he has moved in the matter - Certainly your son has had the best training of any one of whom I know in the country, and it would seem to be only a proper recognition to give him this position in the survey.

Regarding positions on this side of the line I am probably not well posted, but I have had applications for positions as assistant in my

work from at least half a dozen within the last six months. Two of them are graduates of the Cambridge Scientific School, and one of them has been a professor in a southern college - but they have no special knowledge of Palaeontology.

I have just now a German as a preparator, and a young man who is trying to learn, but the latter will never be more than elementary in his acquirements. I have been quite discouraged with my efforts in this direction, with a great mass of material before me and no competent assistant, & I am compelled to go on with my printing.

Should it turn out that your son shall give up his place in Canada, which I hope may not come from the cause mentioned, I would be glad to have him spend a few months with me, on my own account, if agreeable to him and we can make satisfactory arrangements to do so. It might be to our mutual advantage -

In reference to the Eozoic Limestone I will make some further inquiry. I thought it desirable to notice this unconformability of our serpentine limestone for several reasons, but more especially to stimulate investigation among the older rocks. Except as to the age of our northern rocks I do not propose to interest myself in this question. I would like to see

the reapred patch on our geological map
made it assume some different aspect.

I am very truly yours
James Hall

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[Handwritten signature and date:]
J. P. Macle
Sept 1946