

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
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Buffalo, N. Y.

May 9th 1878 -

Dr. Dawson,

My dear Sir -

I wish to write you a few things with regard to the late Prof. Hearne, who was my teacher and chief for the past seven years. I send you a copy of the N.Y. "Tribune" of last Saturday which contains a short account of his life, mostly, however, in the Brazilian field. It contains some statement, in a general way, of Brazilian work never published before. I hope soon, however, to get out something more complete and definite than this and will send you such

Benjamin N. J.  
 May 2nd 1878

Dr. H. Carter  
 My dear Sir

I wish to write  
 you about things which regard  
 to the late Prof. Brewster  
 more my teacher and chief  
 for the past several years.  
 I send you a copy of the  
 "Review" of last Saturday  
 which contains a short  
 account of his life, mostly  
 however, in the theological  
 field. It contains some  
 statements, in a general way  
 of the opinion most men  
 of letters before I left  
 your town, that he  
 something more complete  
 and definite than this  
 and will be your work



when it appeared, I was with  
Heard in Brazil, over two  
years, in the position  
of assistant geologist to  
the Geological Commission,  
and left him last Febry,  
only because my health  
would not allow me to  
remain longer in Brazil.  
But when I left him, I did  
not imagine that he would  
share such a sad fate  
as has been his. I had  
been in this Country only  
a week when I received  
the telegraph despatch,  
but since then we have  
received fuller accounts  
by letter. He was sick  
only two days, and most of  
that time he had only  
what the doctor supposed  
to be a bilious fever.

When it appeared I was with  
the rest in charge, over the  
years in the position  
of assistant Secretary to  
the Federal Government  
and left in last July  
only because my health  
would not allow me to  
remain longer in charge.  
But when I left I was  
not imagining that I was  
there but a real fact  
as has been said, I had  
been in this Government  
a matter of years  
the Secretary of State  
but since then we have  
received fewer accounts  
of them. The more  
only two days and most  
that time he had only  
what the doctor had  
to be a business man.



However, at midnight of the  
seventeenth he became delir-  
ious and died at three on  
the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
being real seriously ill  
only about four hours. His  
poor wife and children are  
here in Adubbals where  
they have been for over  
a year. The loss is a most  
sad one for them. The  
Commission ended with  
is chief, but we are in  
hopes of saving all the  
<sup>finished</sup> materials, that is the  
finished manuscripts etc.  
which I hope will be  
published in this Country  
if not in Brazil. The  
loss is a great one to  
Science for we had im-  
mense collections from  
entirely new regions which  
had not yet been touched

had not yet been started  
entirely new regions which  
necessitate collection from  
Seneca for we had in  
fact a great one at  
if not in design. The  
published in this country  
which state will be  
printed manuscripts etc.  
Knox's, that is the  
fact of being united  
to that, but we are  
Commissioner and next  
and one for them. The  
appears. The case is a  
they have been for  
there in Buffalo where  
from wife and children are  
very about four hours  
being real anniversary of  
the morning of the 1st  
and was at that on  
Government to become better  
thoroughly at night of the



for the want of funds and  
time. The Geological reports  
of the Lower Amazonian  
valley, including the de-  
scriptions of <sup>all the</sup> Possid, (Si-  
lurian, Devonian and Carbon-  
iferous) were ready for  
the printer. Also many  
of the other reports were  
done, but the greatest  
losses will be with the  
Cretaceous Possid, of which  
there was an immense  
collection, and with the  
Ethnological and Marine  
Invertebrates collections  
which were equally large.  
I shall be pleased to keep  
you informed of whatever  
is done with the Commis-  
ion materials and of what  
ever may be published.





There is a matter of your  
greater importance now,  
however, about which  
I should like to ask  
you advice. Prof. Heurt  
left a large collection  
of his own at Cornell Uni-  
versity which we now  
wish to see what in-  
stitution for the benefit  
of his widow. It is mostly  
Brazilian, and contains  
many types. It was the  
fruit of his three pri-  
vate expeditions to Brazil,  
<sup>including</sup> the Devonian and Carbon-  
iferous basins of the Am-  
azonas, the Cretaceous of  
Pernambuco and Sergipe,  
besides which were lithologic  
and mineral specimens  
from many regions. There  
is also a large collection of  
corals and other marine invertebrates

There is a number of  
fossiliferous strata  
throughout the  
State of New York  
and the fossils  
found in them  
are of great  
interest to the  
geologist. The  
strata of the  
Silurian period  
are especially  
rich in fossils  
and the fossils  
found in them  
are of great  
interest to the  
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are of great  
interest to the  
geologist.



Of North American materials  
there are large collections  
of New Permian, Primordial  
and Devonian fossils  
and Carboniferous fossils  
and minerals from Nova  
Scotia etc. Prof. J. H. B.  
Constock of Cornell has  
placed an evaluation on the  
collections which he thinks  
are worth \$6,200, but  
Mrs. Heath is willing to  
sell for 5,000 dollars.  
There will probably be  
some opposition made  
to the purchase which  
will be considered at the  
meeting of the Trustees of  
Cornell University - about  
the middle of June next.  
In case it were necessary  
would you be willing to

of North American  
there are large collections  
of New Brunswick, Florida  
and Louisiana fossils  
and Carboniferous fossils  
and minerals from Texas  
Georgia etc. Prof. H. D. S.  
Collections of Corvallis has  
been a collaboration with  
collections which include  
one month ago, but  
Prof. H. D. S. is missing  
bill for \$5000 dollars.  
There were probably  
some specimens made  
at the formation which  
will be considered at the  
meeting of the Bureau of  
Corvallis University - about  
the middle of June.  
In case it were necessary  
now, you be missing the



will allow giving your  
idea of the valuation  
of such material to that  
University or any other?  
I could in the meantime  
give you a better idea of  
what the collections con-  
sist of, but they contain all  
the original material  
of all the private expedi-  
tions I have made to Brazil.

In case Cornell refuses  
to take the collections, is  
there a chance that all  
or any part of them  
would be taken by the  
McGill College or any  
other institution of which  
you could inform me  
I shall likewise ask the  
advice of Prof. Heale,  
Dana, Newberry and maybe

lower than any other  
advice of Prof. Hall  
to have likewise  
you cover? inform me  
other institutions of  
Merrill College, or any  
would be taken by the  
or every part of them  
than a chance that are  
to take the collection, is  
in case covered  
I have the most  
of all the former  
the original material  
exists, but they contain  
what the collection  
give you a better idea  
I have in the meantime  
thoroughly or any other?  
of great material to that  
I am of the volume



of this, who would be in-  
fluential with the trustees  
of the University.

Hoping you will ex-  
cuse my boldness in  
addressing you at such  
a length on this subject,  
which is one of immediate  
importance to Mrs. Hearse,

I am

Very respectfully  
Your humble servant

Richard Rathbun.

Please address me at  
The Boston Society for  
Natural History.  
Boston  
Mass.

