

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/66
REF. 15

Remedy

Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 1879

Dear Sir

I feel very much obliged to you for your kindness in sending me the "Supplement" to the "Acadian Geology", & also for your Paper "On a Recent Discovery of Carboniferous Batrachians in Nova Scotia" sent to me some time ago <sup>science</sup> & also a pamphlet on it.

I hope you will pardon my remissness in replying to your note enclosed in a letter to one of our students - Mr. Pines -, but I wished to have a look over my collection before doing so. I carried your letter in my pocket, with the intention of examining <sup>en</sup> my collection, on the first opportunity I should have free from classwork, but was not able up to the time, when our college building was



destroyed by fire - I would liked to have seen you when I was in Montreal last summer.

Our Museum, with the exception of a few specimens, was entirely destroyed.

The Library was for the most part saved in good condition, through the ready assistance of the students, who were on the ground - Through their assistance nearly ~~over~~ all the Chemical, & Philosophical Apparatus, together with the series of Minerals, & fossils which I used in class, & also the most of my own private collection, all of which were contained in the Science Rooms below, were also saved. The entire building was burned in two hours from the time the fire broke out, on the third story, on the Museum end of the building - The Museum room immediately filled with a dense black smoke, in which no one could remain -

I thought at first that nothing would be



saved, but on reaching the college, about five minutes after the fire began, I opened my rooms & called in some of the students, & with their assistance most was saved in good condition - I had to leave as soon as my classroom door was on fire, & the gable end ~~of~~ fell out shortly after I got out, being the last in the building.

My classes have been kept up the same as before the fire.

We of course scarcely knew what was best to be done under the circumstances. A meeting of the Faculty was held, when after pretty fully discussing the pros & cons, it was decided to go on with classwork as soon as accommodation could be provided, & in the meantime to dismiss the students, & to recommence our work, at the appointed time after the New Year. As soon as this decision was made known to the students, - they held a meeting on their own account - the result of which was, that they would stand by "Acadia", & return to

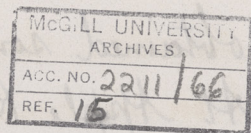


their classwork, in such rooms, as should, in the interval, be provided for them.

A public meeting was also held in this place, at which considerable interest was manifested, & the sum of \$9000.00 subscribed by those present.

Before leaving for their homes, the students gathered around the ruins of "Old Acadia" & forming a circle by clasping hands, gave expression to their emotions & determinations, by singing several of the everwelcome lines of "Huld Lang Syne", then falling in two by two, marched in procession to the residences of the professors, where three cheers were given for the professor, & three for the college - on which occasion several of our faculty delivered impromptu addresses. A meeting of the Board of Governors was held about the same time, when it was decided to put up <sup>at once</sup> two, - one story, wooden buildings, which should serve as temporary accommodation until a permanent building, or buildings, could



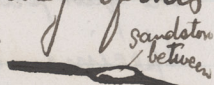


It has been my custom since coming here, to go on a Geological Excursion with the class in Geology & Mineralogy. Last year we chartered the schooner, which I had the year previous - I had a platform or floor put in the hold, & straw strewn on this & on this a portion of our party spread their blankets & to sleep on, as the cabin was not large enough for all.

In addition to the Juniors (the class in geology) some of the Seniors, two or three Graduates, & a gentleman of the place, making a party of 22, & to this there was the captain & mate, & 2 boys to clean up - ~~made~~ in all 26 on board. We visited Cape Blomidon, Cape Split, Spicer Cove where the year previous I dug out a very finely preserved specimen of *Stigmara* <sup>(which was lost in the fire)</sup> - This year we obtained pieces of *Sigillaria* & *Stigmara*, & I found some specimens of *Cardiocarpum*, somewhat like fig K, p 460 of *Acadian Geology*. We also visited Sandy Cove where we



obtained some Cordaites leaves -

At Apple River we collected some fine specimens of Fern impressions, Cordaites &c. in the shales on the side opposite to the lighthouse - On the side next to ~~the next to~~ the lighthouse, I observed several thin seams of coal in a gravelly deposit - These appear to have been formed from heaps of drift wood &c. - In one case it had all the appearance of having been a good sized drift log, or rather the bark of a log tree, ~~about~~ the fragment was about 15 feet long - The bark in places seemed to have collapsed or fallen together forming a solid mass of coal - in other portions, sand seemed to have fallen in & hardened, leaving a thin seam above & below - I did not make a drawing of this but it resembled this somewhat  sandstone between

We also visited Isle of Haut, where we collected some minerals & some large Fungi on a decayed Yellow Birch on top - At Haut



Island we landed on the North east end, on a gravelly beach, which extends most of this side, & the rock rises less abruptly than on the other sides - I noticed most of our common plants growing wild - in fact it seemed more as though we were in the centre of the woods on the Mainland than on the top of an insulated piece of rock - on the South side there are great numbers of gulls breeding - A light house was being put up when we were there -

At Hillsborough, NB, we went to the plaster or gypsum beds, obtaining a fine lot of Museum specimens -

We also went to the Albert Mines, & collected specimens of Albertite showing junction with the slate - & some fossil fishes -

We were away ten days, living & sleeping on board - We had good weather most of the time, except at Apple, where we had to remain overnight - It was in a very disagreeable



cold drizzling rain, & hemmed in by the tide between two points, that we collected our specimens -

We were also at Partridge Island, & collected some good specimens of Stilbite, Calcite &c.

Last Year we went to the Loggin's Mines, not the one in charge of Mr. Hill, as I was not aware at the time that he was there -

I think I must close this lengthy letter or I shall be taking up too much of your time -

I might add that I have done what I could towards transforming myself into a Nova Scotian, & have changed my state of single Blessedness, into a Double, by joining myself to one of the daughters of the land - a young <sup>lady</sup> from Halifax -

We expect to take up house as soon as the college closes, & when we <sup>are</sup> settled, we shall be pleased to have you stay with us whenever you may be passing through



The construction of the cases is in the hands of the present contractor of the building. The cases flat, & upright are to be of Black ash faced in part with Blackwalnut, & to be made according to plans which I drew out -

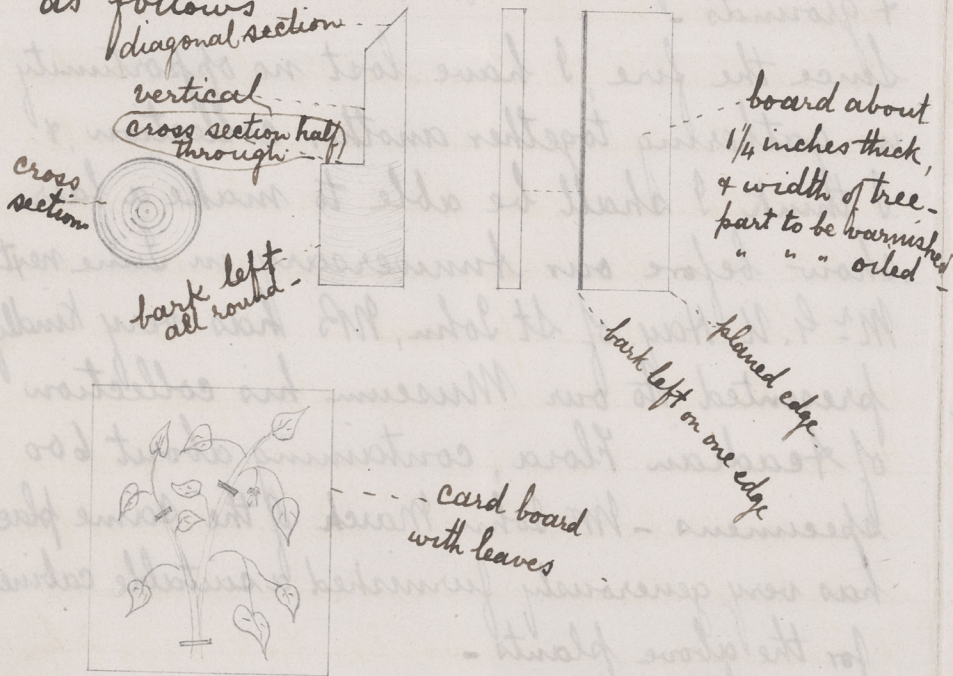
It is the intention of the Board of Governors to open up an Avenue from the Main Street to the large entrance in the centre of the building - I have been requested to draw out plans, for the laying out, of the Avenue, & grounds -

Since the fire, I have lost no opportunity in gathering together another collection, & I think I shall be able to make a fair show before our Anniversary in June next. Mr. G. U. Hay of St John, NB has very kindly presented to our Museum his collection of Acadian Flora, containing about 600 specimens - Mr. John March of the same place has very generously furnished a suitable cabinet for the <sup>above</sup> plants -

There is <sup>also</sup> the collection of Nova Scotian woods, &



shrubs - about 40 different species. which I made over a year ago, at New Ross 30 miles from here - This collection contains specimens showing the mature bark of the trunk of the tree (averaging 6 inches in diameter) - the smaller branched of each tree, & the leaves, & flowers when obtainable - It is my intention of having the trunks cut in lengths of about 21 inches, - one piece of each tree to have a cross section, to show rings of growth - another to be cut somewhat as follows





be erected. Two <sup>Permanent</sup> buildings were <sup>afterwards</sup> decided upon. One of these for college purposes, to be constructed on the brow of the hill - about five hundred feet in front of the old college site, & in front of the grove of trees.

The other building to be erected on the east end of the old college site - this was to serve as a boarding house, with a few class rooms, for the young ladies of the Seminary.

Both of these buildings are nearly completed. - Three rooms on the east wing of the college building will be occupied by the male & female students connected with the classes of Horton Academy. - the latter will probably be ready next week. - The length of Seminary runs north & south.

The length of the college building runs east & west - fronting to the main road on the north.



The class rooms, with the exception of one in each wing, are all on the first story - They are of good size - Mine for example measures 20 ft by 26 ft, with two smaller rooms adjoining - one for chemicals, + specimens for class purposes - the other for work room. On the second story - east end in front, the library with a librarian's room attached, south of this a class room, in the centre is the Main assembly room with galleries on each side - on the West end is the Museum with a curator's attached - + south of the Museum is another class room -

There are a couple of smaller rooms in the top half story - A ~~capola~~ or bell tower tower surmounts the whole in the centre of the building - There are two smaller towers on each end of the building -

The museum room measures 28 ft 6 wide East + West - by 45 ft 6 North + South - with a gallery 5 feet wide on the East, South + West sides - ceiling 20 ft from the floor -



this place -

There has been quite a snow storm prevailing here for the last two days, with high winds - I forgot to mention that I received a box of rocks &c from the Canadian Geological Survey, kindly forwarded by Dr. Harrington -

Remaining

Respectfully Yours -

Geo. V. Kennedy

J. W. Dawson, Esq. L.L.D. F.R.S. &c  
Principal McGill College -

P.S. On the other side of this sheet I have made a rough plan, showing position of my rooms - the rest of the building is divided into suitable rooms. I have ten lectures a week -  
G. V. K.



