Written 3 or 4 months ago - and supposed to have been sent to you - as the transport is cheap - I send it you "aged 88" is to be blamed -

Oct: 6. 1879
89 Chester Place
P. Sq.
London

My dear Dawson

With little to say interesting to a man like you daily straining to meet worthily a thousand duties, family, professorial, religious and scientific — still I write — knowing you would like to have a line or two from Johannes the aged - now visibly but slowly advancing heavenwards —

My communications with you have been sweet and good and useful. They will not be forgotten in heaven —

I have nothing good to say of the state of religion here — Pray for the ablest pleaders for the salvation of men here are nonconformists as Dykes & Parker - in London

Spurgeon a baptist, very great — and devoted among the Wesleyans — but the giants of 30 and 50 years ago have left very few successors in

The Church of England is in an unhappy state — The overfed bishops are dumb dogs and seem to care little for the flock which is divided into several bitterly hostile camps. —

Nevertheless God is at the helm —

Government has presented a vast storehouse to British naturalists of singular beauty and grandeur and suitableness — Botany is to move into it in Novr or December — followed by other departments in their turns rapidly —

R^d. Owen is delighted with this and still more with a new young wife he has espoused —

The Geological Society is working well and hard — but in my mind the Paleontographical

palaeontographical Society is advancing.
Geology, more solidly, permanently and
largely than any other - and this without
any outward display — and no salaries —
Young Etheridge has a palaeontological post
in the British Museum - beginning at £250
per ann — but this, with a nice little wife
and two children is not quite enough in Lon-
don — I should have liked to have seen George
in his place — but if his constitution will
stand great hard ship George will dis-
tance us all —
The ~~personal~~ personnel of the Geological Council
is vastly changed — as well as of the Club.
Judd, Duncan, Hulke Jeffries, Hicks are the
leading members —
Lord Enniskilling has offered his large &
exquisitely perfect specimens of fish to the British
museum — for £3000 guineas — people are

Reply
Oct/79

now appraising the collection — & settling the price —

De Koninck has been here some days with me — He goes to Dublin on the 22nd — He is perhaps engaged in Enniskillen's affair

I have seen a good deal of him I believe him to be a Christian man — He does not at all believe in the Eozoon — He says he is a disciple of Thomas the doubting — The best of us call for patience —

I am greatly obliged by your writing to Prof. Fontaine — I wrote to him and he has proved as obliging as you describe him —

His book with I think 18 plates of Permian plants will be published in 2 months — when he will send me a copy — perhaps he will send me the Text while printing goes on — as I have asked

I suspect your writing to him was the turning point I saw, the other day really bound your Devonian plants (Nova Scotia) in the Royal Soc. Library waiting its sure time of usefulness.

I had long letter from Barrande a week ago full of kindly feeling — accompanied by an octavo of plates & text on Brachiopod.

J.

a good deal of commentary on the Thesaur. Devon Carb — which wants transcribing — this and more I am sure Rupert Jones will readily aid me in — and if sufficiently advanced at my death I hope to get it printed then —

I am not a little anxious about your brave and very able George — I fear his health will give way — when next you have him home you should yourself — and also by a medical friend carefully see into this — Repeated long exposure in wildness cannot take place without damage — and he must have collected a vast stock of valuable matter to work up and make a name —

With most cordial greetings to Mrs Dawson, Mr Harrington — not forgetting Dr. H. and your whole house

I am dear Dawson Yours most sincerely
J. J. Bigsby

I think this, like his other writings very suggestive always important - sometimes greatly so - especially when directed against Darwinism - as in this vol. on Brachiopods — But I always examine his conclusions carefully —

He is as busy as ever, — has 250 plates printed on Bohemian Monomyarian, Gasteropoda &c with the text ready — for 2 or 3 Vol^s —

He is a gigantic worker..

At this time of year I have little geology to talk about — nor at other times much — for I am become very weak — the paralysis of 4 years ago — rather develops — (on right side) and affects the bladder painfully —

I am just returned from passing 2 months agreeably on the South Coast — benefitting general health a little —

I confess I should like to complete my Thesaur. Permianus — but I am ready to accompany the Messenger on high immediately — I have also