

Tangier, N. S.

14th Nov. '81

Dear W^m Dawson,

Although two years have passed since W^m Scaife & I bade adieu to you at Mr Gill previous to our departure for Acadia neither of us has forgotten our promise to try to get you some fossils from the auriferous series. W^m Scaife has been especially zealous in overhauling all promising beds of slate.

To-night we send you the first specimen that we have yet obtained. It was found by a couple of miners in a prospecting trench on our gold property at Beaver Dams, some ten or twelve miles North of Sheet Harbour. (After W^m has spent a summer in this region we ~~will~~ shall speak more precisely as to its location.) The specimen was found about five feet below the surface & an equal distance above bed rock. But the accompanying detritus was in all probability of strictly local origin. And I have no manner of doubt that the bed whence the specimen came is certainly within half a mile (at the outside) North or NW of the spot where it was found.

The men have received positive orders to keep a sharp look out for similar specimens. If any better ones are obtained we intend to send them forward to you without delay.

The Beaver Dam beds of slate & quartzite (whin)
with their ~~interesting~~ ^{accompanying} quartz leads have
a very peculiar strike of their own, viz. N 57° W approx.
As you are aware the usual strike of the beds
along this coast ranges from N 80° W to N 80° E.

The openings at B. Dam are few in number & of
small area & slight depth. The surface every-
where is deep, varying from 6-30 ft. Nowhere has
any outcrop of rock been found in the diggings.
It is quite possible that more extended obser-
vations may explain this curious singularity.

Mr. Scaife desires me to add that if you
or any of your scientific friends desire to
personally study the geology of that district
or of Tangier or Ecu de Securus we ourselves
& our workmen will do our best to aid you.

Mr. Scaife & I desire you to place this specimen
in the McGill museum after you have
made all other use of it you may desire,
if you think it worthy of a place there.

I am greatly ashamed of myself that I did
not manage to ~~see you~~ have any conversation
with you during my very hurried trip to
Montreal last summer.

Please remember both Mr. Scaife & myself
very kindly to Mr. & Miss Dawson & Mr. & Mrs. Harrington.
Give my best regards also to George & Rankine.
Yours very truly
J. Fraser Torrance