

New Glasgow 8th Sept 1853

My dear Sir Williams

In regard to your enquiry
in regard to the Ivory tusk I have to
say that it was found in an old Kitchen
Midden on the farm of the Rev A J
Milled Merigonish. It lies on the South
side of the harbour nearly due North of
where the Church stands. It juts out into
the harbour forming a point about 30
feet high. This gradually slopes inland
down to about the level of high water mark
and at the foot is a little rim of water
Here also a little cove makes in.

The face of the slope referred to is
a regular kitchen midden, about an acre
of ground being covered with a dark

in some places almost black soil, to the
depth of 6 to 12 inches, and at the outer
edge shading off to nothing. This soil is
plentifully mixed with shells of oysters
clams and muscles, and perhaps others. Below
it is the ordinary red soil. One can easily
see the suitability of the situation for the
encampment of the wandering inhabitants
of old. It was near the harbour. The
bluff which was doubtless at that time
covered with wood would form a protection
from the North wind. It would have a
pleasant exposure to the South. The little
streams at the foot would afford them
fresh water, while the cove would form
a snug place for drawing up their canoes.

This has yielded a plentiful crop
of stone implements. I think with those
I have and those I have given away I

must have taken over 40 axes and hammers
besides broken ones that I did not take away.
I have also got about 30 arrowheads,
spear heads and scrapers. ~~The~~ Boxy spring
after the froth of snow and rains of spring
these are always more exposed, and this is
especially the case when the ground is
ploughed. Now I have also obtained broken
bow implements, batwees or pipes or a good
axe, or a gouge. Among these was the
ivory instrument you enquire about. I
have another found a little distance ~~to~~
across the stream to the South where there
are the same marks of occupancy by former
races, but in a limited degree. ~~The~~ It is
of the same material but longer by perhaps
three inches and not so thick. It has been
ground at the one end so as to taper off
to a blunt point. My supposition is that

they were used as ~~sets~~ in forming the edges
of arrow heads by pressure. I have lately
obtained a third implement of the same
kind. It was dug up at the foot of the slope
referred to. It is in good preservation is polished
smooth and very gradually brought to a
point. Unfortunately the man who found it
judging it to have been used at the point
of a spear with his own knife sharpened
off the point, which I believe was originally
blunt. I have also picked up another looking
like the same, but which having been long
exposed to the surface is very much wasted
away. I intend writing an account of my
collection with notices of such places for
the Institute of Natural Science this
winter. In the meantime I would like to
ask if the one I sent you is undoubtedly
wray or is it horn. I would also be glad

to hear any remarks that are suggested to you
by the store implements I sent you, I mean
particularly as to the kinds of which they are composed

My family are well though at present
in some excitement as our eldest daughter
is to be married next Monday and our second
next month. They are both going to live in
Boston. The men they are getting seem to be
good Christian men, and with fair prospects
in the world

With kind regards to Mr Dawson and
family

I remain

Sincerely Yours

George Patterson

D. Patten

Fronte

Hard Suedden

Yellow Paper

Quartite

Muddy Green

Hard Slate

Paper

Paper Slate

Memo letter given

to Houghton

Dug in