

Hale
Clinton, Ont, Dec. 20, 1886

My dear Sir William Dawson,

The clear explanations given
in your letter, and in the very
valuable and interesting article which
you have kindly sent me, afford
me just the information which I
desired. I have to thank you
heartily also for the copies of
your address and the Museum Report.
They will give Mr. Gladstone the
particulars he asks for, much more
fully and completely than I could
present them.

I have not yet seen your
recent volume on hyria and

Egypt, but shall prove it, and
have no doubt of the pleasure and
instruction which I shall derive
from its perusal. I do not know
whether you touch anywhere upon
the later discoveries of the Assyriologists,
which seem to ~~require~~ give a somewhat
greater antiquity to the present race
of men than the period suggested by
you for the latest emergence of the
northern continent would allow.

Prof Sayce, in a late letter to me - while
accepting in the main my theories as
to linguistic stocks and palaeolithic man -
suggests that I have placed the appearance
of speaking men at too late a date. He says -
"The inscriptions of Sargon of Acad and his
son Naram-sin, B.C. 3800, show not only

that the Semitic family of speech
was distinguished pretty much as it
was 9000 years later, but also that
Assyro-Babylonian in particular already
existed with all its peculiarities and
special forms."

These facts would seem to
require at least the full term of 7000
years, which is proposed in my address
as the minimum for the existence of
the present race of men. But it would
not follow that the great northern
sea, apparently referred to in the
Homeric traditions, ~~may~~ not have existed,
as you suggest, down nearly or quite to
the age of Homer. Reclus, in his work
on the Earth, after pointing out the evidence
which shows that the Euxine, the Caspian

and the Aral seas were united at
a very recent period, remarks that
"Herodotus, Strabo, Ptolemy and all the
authors of antiquity, attribute to the ancient
Hyrcanean ocean an extent far larger
than that of the Caspian of our day."

I have no opportunity of verifying
these opinions, but there can be no
reasonable doubt of their correctness.

Mr. Gladstone, I think, places Homer at
least 600 years before Herodotus - when,
of course, this ocean was much larger
than in the days of that historian. Your
view, confirmed by these ancient authorities,
seems to give good warrant for supposing
that the great northern Mediterranean sea,
which is demanded, in Mr. Gladstone's opinion,
by the Homeric Geography, may have actually
existed when the Iliad was composed. It is
certainly a most interesting subject of inquiry,
and I should be glad if you, with your large
knowledge & opportunities, would take it up.
Very sincerely yours,
H. Hale