

Geological Department of Cornell University.

Le. Wm. Dawson

Ithaca, N. Y., Sept. 15 1887

My dear Sir:

The paper on the different types of the Devonian in America to which you kindly refer, will be printed in full (in a few months time) in the Am Journal of Science. Prior to that I know of no good abstract, to appear.

I am having a type written copy prepared, and if you desire I will send it for your examination before publication.

The paper is written with an eye to the proposition urged by the Europeans in the International Congress, and exhibits how impracticable it is, even for the American continent, to apply any scheme of uniformity of classification or nomenclature to subdivision of such a system as the Devonian. When the criteria are physical; and I have urged that even biologically no finer subdivision than an indefinite recognition of a lower, middle and upper stage of a Devonian fauna is practicable when widely separate regions are considered.

Truly yours
H.S. Williams

Geological Department of Cornell University.

Albany, N. Y. August 1887

Mr. McLean

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]