

Belcher
Jan 1890

Hanover N. H., Jan 28 '90
Sir William Dawson

Dear Sir,
Thanks

your note of the 26th inst. We
never fail to get something of interest
from you whenever you speak or write
about the ice period. When your
paper (jointly with Mr Penhallow) was
read by abstract in New York I thought
that the two extreme theoretical views
must be decidedly converging - I
had ventured to quote some statements
from you in my Report H. to the American
Geologist (partially reprinted in the American
Geologist p 303, vol II) that a boulder deposit
capped the Leda clays - suggesting an interval
of glacial age further Leda clays - correspond-
ing to what I have found at Portland Maine.
Hence I was pleased to see you state so
positively in the N. Y. paper that these
clays belong to the middle period of the
Ice.

or what correspond to "interglacial"
In my conclusions in this same
Report I concede the agency of marine
conditions in the valley of the St Lawrence
And as you allow of glaciers high up
in the Labrador region I do not see but
we are agreed - glaciers on the
highlands and the sea low down

Your remark upon the "physically
impossible ice sheet" - I suppose
you do not refer to Greenland
where there is one of these ice sheets
now in existence - and of about
the same size (or near enough for
practical purposes) with the one former-
ly existing over the Laurentian
highlands - I do not ask for any ice
sheet differing in any important respect
from that now existing in Greenland
The one in the Columbian Rockies
must have been independent of the
Laurentian mer de glace

I shall look with pleasure for
your proposed treatise demolishing the
"terminal moraines". There are getting
pretty numerous, and according to Dr
Might (in N.Y.) have even invaded Can-
ada. I do not object to their demolition
provided you give us a better edifice
in their place.

Respy Yours
C K Hitchcock