

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA,  
George M. Dawson, C.M.G., LL.D., F.R.S.,

DEPUTY HEAD AND DIRECTOR,

MUSEUM AND OFFICES, SUSSEX STREET, OTTAWA.

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> 1897.

My dear Sir William:-

I am glad to learn that you are getting stronger. I need not tell you how pained & pained I was on hearing of your last illness. You must take good care of yourself & bide time with us here below. For some weeks past I was anxious to see you & have a wee chat with you regarding the faunas & floras of Pitou, Colchester & Cumberland Counties in Nova Scotia. I was sorry you were poorly the day I called. The last 3 Sundays I spent in Montreal, where Mrs. <sup>Wid</sup> Annis & had you not been so weak I had gone to see you. I said I would write. One my first objects in writing is regarding the British Assoc. grant of £20-0-0 for investigating the Pleistocene flora & fauna of Canada.

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As Chairman of the Canadian Committee I  
suppose you have authority to spend & dis-  
burse the funds for the purpose indicated.

You remember the last lot of *Besneria*  
plants from the calcareous nodules of the  
Clays of 'Leda clay' age, well, Mr. Lamb  
& Mr. W. J. Wilson & I went again to the  
same locality & obtained in one day quite  
an amount of fresh material. I will  
send some leaves & twigs &c. kinds  
fruits & a couple of specimens doubtfully  
referred to insects.

Prof. Mackintosh of Edinburgh & St. Andrew  
Scotland has that pretty little *Echinoderum*  
on which you were good enough to write  
some notes some time ago.

If you have not already received suggestions  
as to how to spend & where to spend the  
money from members of this Committee  
you will find me if I venture to  
ask if you would allow from \$10 to \$15  
towards

depriving further success in obtaining  
material from Bessemer, below Green's  
Creek mouth on the Ottawa River.  
The water was exceptionally low &  
before the river runs too far - if you will  
allow say \$10 or \$15 I can probably  
find a good series of places to.

Mr. Bessemer himself is on the  
ground & I showed him how to get  
the nodules. - I would then have them  
collected in a heap & open them on  
the spot after heating them. I find  
that the best means of opening the stones.  
[In connection with the Mastodon Bone  
I obtained this fall for the Survey I was  
able to obtain exact notes on the mode  
of their occurrence. Some money might  
be spent to advantage in one locality in  
Green Co. \$25 or \$30 could be spent on Mr.  
Mallot's Farm. Rev. Mr. Patterson, B. U.,  
of U. S. G. would

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undertake the digging with the men on the  
farm. What say you?

Then as to Nova Scotia - my impression regarding  
the age of the doubtful area under in-  
-vestigation is this - that although I find  
an extensive series of plant & animal  
~~series~~ remains in rocks which are  
clearly unconformably beneath the  
Maine Lower Carboniferous limestone  
yet - the fauna & flora of such are more  
akin to Carboniferous to my know-  
-ledge series I know. & A. Smith Woodward &  
Prof. J. Rupert Jones, in their Communications  
to me on the subject, after submitting speci-  
-mens to them, have replied in similar  
strain. I have a nice lot of fossils & it is nice to see  
how they corroborate you very good & important work  
in these interesting Counties. With best regards & wishes to  
yourself & Lady Dawson, believe me to be,  
Yours most sincerely,  
H. M. Smith