



GEOLOGICAL & NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY.
Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., L.L.D., F.R.S., Director.
MUSEUM AND OFFICE, SUSSEX ST., OTTAWA.

31 March 1889

My dear Doctor,

I found it impossible to get down
& went out yesterday as I had hoped, having
had a lot of work done in & in addition
an invitation at short notice to dine at
Sir John's which I thought I should accept.
Referring to the enclosed letter, which I had
hoped to discuss with you. — I should
suppose there can be no impropriety in
your joining the Society if you think it worth
while, but it is more usual to elect
foreigners of distinction as honorary or
corresponding members of such societies &
not to ask them to join the ordinary list
& pay the full subscription of ordinary
members. Prof. Sturtevant writes as though
the Society was intended to be a Geol.
Society of N. America though the name
American Geological Society is in the
ordinary acceptation at least ambiguous,

for nine people out of ten would suppose
 it was a Geological Society of the United States,
 It is scarcely worth taking exception to the name,
 but as far as I know the able initiative of
 the scheme was by U.S. Geologists & it would
 appear to be de facto a U.S. Evol. Soc. I do
 not know what rules they have made or propose
 to make for the admission of foreign members
 as distinct from the ordinary ones, but I
 should certainly expect to be put on the same
 footing with these. Whenever they want our help
 they associate us with "American Geologists"
 but when they wish to say we are wrong then we
 are "Canadian geologists". I have not myself been
 personally solicited to join the Society, but know
 that Dr Selwyn has & though I do not know
 what he may say about it I think he feels
 much as I do. Perhaps the name I take is
 too narrow for we have of course the examples
 of the Am. & B. animals & the contrary, & it
 might perhaps be time enough to resign if
 any but a few foreign members should be
 introduced, so that I feel willing to follow



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your advice. We have no right to offer an
opinion as to the name of the Society, as
we had no part in its inception, & as
Prof. Stourton writes to you in a very appreciative
way it would I suppose be pleasant to
meet his views in any way you consistently
can. Again you will I suppose be at the
meeting in August which will be held at the
same time with that of the Am. Assoc. of Toronto,
as I understand.

You may perhaps have noted in the papers that
Dr. Rae is reported to be quite ill.

Yours

George

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Chas. East
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