

October 1878
John Sangster
London

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13, Sherborne Lane, E.C.
London 30 October 1878



B. J. Harrington Esq
Montreal.

Dear Sir, In answer to your esteemed letter of the 3^d inst. I beg to say that I am very much obliged to you for the valuable information that you give me, and also for the two samples of serpentine marbles which you sent me, which only cost 5/6, that I considered very low for carriage. I am sorry however that they are too dark in colour, no novel beauty in them. Even the one with the white streaks through it is not saleable in large quantities; they are I think twins from the same quarry, and for the present I leave them alone, as I do not think it would pay to export them there. Thanks all the same to you. —

The small sample which you send me in your letter of the serpentine limestone formation, is a new thing. Its only fault being that the green spots are too small and similar without variety of dissemination. However if it can be procured in large long and wide blocks never mind the thickness at a moderately low price, it might be introduced here. Therefore if not giving you too much trouble ascertain at what price FOB at any port on the St. Lawrence they could be shipped direct for London of say in blocks 6 to 9 feet long 2 to 3 feet wide & any thickness.

My friend who employed me to search for porphyry for him told me yesterday he had found exactly what suited him. Therefore that inquiry is at an end. —

I saw your specimens of Canadian produce in Philadelphia I have seen them twice in Paris, and really some of them are wonderful; but I fear your serpentine marbles will not come into consumption with some of other countries. You have however hidden treasures

Treasures in Canada which have not yet been brought to light. I got one the other day from Canada, of serpentine marble very beautiful, if it can only be shipped at a low price. You do not yet fully know your riches in granites and marbles, but time will bring them to light. †

Mr. Silwyn was in London 2 weeks ago. Mr. Reeds of the Geological Society here told me he had called at their establishment and would return Mr. Reeds said he would give Mr. Silwyn my address, but when I called yesterday Mr. R. said that Mr. Silwyn had not again called upon him, that he saw by the newspapers that he had returned to Paris, therefore I fear I shall not have the pleasure of seeing Mr. Silwyn.

I may here say that I was appointed agent in England for the May of Fundy Red Granite Co Limited I sold several parcels for them, but they have come to grief as you must know, and orders I gave them consequently could not be fulfilled. It is a splendid granite superior in colour to the Peterhead that I know so well, being a native of Aberdeenshire and if the May of Fundy Co could have supplied us with their granite to have sold here the same price as the Aberdeenshire, I could have beaten my own native Countrymen in the market of London. The Canadian Red Granite is better but your wages & expenses I fear are too high, and your communication with London is too impaired to silence the Scotch in this market.

Excuse me for this long letter, but as I am grateful to you for your kindness, I hope I am mutually giving you information. - I have the honour to remain

Your most obedient servant
John Sangster