

Montreal  
Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 1888

Percival W. S<sup>r</sup> Joyce  
City Surveyor, &c  
Montreal

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of Jan 23<sup>d</sup> I beg to say that of the two rock specimens which you submitted to me for examination one is ~~a~~ - the grey one - is a limestone, which on account of its manner of breaking and softness would be ~~alto~~ quite unsuitable for street-paving. The other is a gneiss, composed of the same mineral constituents as an ordinary granite. It would probably break <sup>in one direction & would produce small</sup> ~~shards~~ into blocks, even blocks, such as you <sup>require for the street</sup> ~~want~~ this should ~~well~~ be determined empirically with a quantity of the stone. The wearing capacity would be much the same as for a granite. A point in favour of the gneiss as compared with the limestone, if the cost of transportation has to be considered, is that it weighs only about 165 lbs per cubic foot, while the limestone weighs over 174. This is a very busy season with me & I regret that it has been ~~so~~ impossible for me to reply to your communication earlier. If you wish for any further information in the matter kindly let me know & oblige

Yours very sincerely

R. F. H. H. H.

P.S. As soon as I can find time I shall endeavor to look out some specimens of rocks for you R.F.H.