

295. University St  
Montreal

April 5 1914

Dear George,

When I wrote to  
you last, I fear my tone  
was not very cheerful.  
I was in truth in a blue-  
what despondent mood,  
having a cold in the head,  
and being worried with  
many things. I write however  
at once, in order to reach  
you before Saturday, in case  
you should be able to come  
down. I have felt a little  
better since I had

an interview yesterday with  
Jes Blackader and Stewart  
in order to get definite in-  
structions as to the best  
way to patch up my  
little remaining vitality,  
I feel somewhat reassured  
by knowing what it is best  
to do, and what to avoid,  
though it will involve some  
sacrifice and further re-  
striction of activity.

I shall mail today  
a covered puff of a little

paper I am publishing  
on the Needs of Science  
as to Cryptosporon, Archaeo-  
Zoon, &c, also copies of  
two addresses in which  
I have dealt with the  
general question of the  
origin of the oldest rocks,  
and which may perhaps  
afford some hints in case  
you should take that  
subject for your address.

Naturally they are  
very general, but are

from

2

The contact conglomerate to the  
very first bituminous shales,  
and it must have suffered  
greatly from denudation in the  
subsequent deepening of the  
Limestone series, besides being knotted  
about by all the movements  
of deepening & elevation from the  
beginning to the end of the Carboniferous.  
For the most part it can scarcely  
be traced stratigraphically; but can  
be distinguished everywhere, except  
in the conglomerate, by its fossils.  
The only way to map these beds  
is to find well-marked fossiliferous  
localities and to trace the beds  
and fossils as far as they will  
go in unbroken faulting, denudation  
twisting or overlapping things in  
fracturing etc. This may  
seem rough work for a geologist

The natural preformation both. Ever yours  
Thos. Murchison

2  
Same; but I fear <sup>it</sup> is the  
only way, and I think Zeeke  
and his assistants in England  
now see that this is the case,  
and will have to alter all  
the old maps of the ~~wire~~  
disturbed districts. Logan Rivers  
this. He was devoted to  
stratigraphy and would  
could work it better; but  
when he could find a char-  
acteristic fossil, he was willing  
to go back on the apparent  
superficial. I saw this in dis-  
cussing with him his first work  
in Gaspé; and later when he  
dealt with the controversies about  
the Eastern Trenches. By the  
way I have written to the heirs  
to ask if they will entrust us  
with the maps and notes he made  
last of all. They must contain  
much of value; more especially as  
he had such matter of many of

Mamma and I have both had colds, & I dare say  
been ill for two days; but I hope all are pulling through!

based on a good deal  
of study of the questions  
involved.

I should have said  
more plainly that as the  
production of the Archean  
rocks must have required  
considerable time, different  
conditions of formation may  
have prevailed generally or  
locally at different portions  
of the period. In reality this  
goes without saying though  
it is curious how often geologists  
overlook it in their reasoning.

With all love good  
likes,

Yours ever  
J. M. Dawson