

Tracking the Fossil Footprints appendices

Appendix 1

Transcription of a handwritten letter (July 28, 1845) from Dr. E. F. Harding to J. W. Dawson. Illegible words are noted with "...", and the margin spacing is maintained in the transcription to aid in comparison with the originals. McGill University Archives, MG1022_Acc2211-169_07-28-1845.

Note: The folding and order of sequence of the pages in the letter was complicated, as Dr. Harding stated (bottom page 2) "*As I find I have turned over two leaves at once, I may as well employ some of the vacant space in scribbling a little more.*"

Monday 28th July 1845

My dear Sir,

Although near midnight, I cannot

linger on so good an opportunity of writing and sending

a parcel to you as offer[ed] by Mr Thomas Randal [sic. Randall]

who leaves this at early dawn for the

Albion Mines. When I went to Mr. Brass' the

next morning after parting with you, I was very

sorry to find that you had just gone as

I anticipated much pleasure and profit

from visiting with you our localities interesting

to a geologist.

I did not receive your friendly letter
and parcel for some time after they were
sent. And I have taken the first days
I could snatch from practice to visit
the places alluded to in the letter. My first
visit was to Snides Mill, but it coming on
to rain I could not make as diligent
search as I should other wise have done ___

As you ascend the brook on the Western side
is a large bed of freestone, stratified
and enclosing one layer of shale

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I am not aware of any rocks on the Avon
like those of Snides Mill or the Half
way river. I know not the Western as well as the
Eastern bank: but limestones such as you
saw here and gypsum prevail

with various kinds of marl.

There appears to me a great similarity between the minerals of Snides Mill and those at the Half way river, so as to correlate them both. I should not doubt coal bearing measures.

As far as I have had opportunity of observing, 2 or 3 miles to the southern on the old road, sandstones, quartzous grindstone and slates prevail _ but this is only from memory for I have not seen them since they were objects of geological interest to me_ fossil plants are found in them. As I find I have turned over two leaves at once, I may as well employ some of the vacant space in scribbling a little more

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A little higher up nearly opposite is the freestone which contains fossil vegetable remains I wish as I have sent specimens: about

1 or 2 hundred feet further up the stream
on the same side occurs this shale and
slate containing lepidodendron specimens
of which are sent, intermingled with freestone
and a quartzite rock. From the talus
of shale at the foot of the
mound I could not see the lowermost rocks
but I suppose the lower layers to be
... which is the prevailing rock
lower down the brook ___ I could not find any fish scales although I should
think it quite possible that they may be
there from the colour of the shale and
and of some micaceous sandstone ^ (what may be called slate) similar
in appearance to what I afterwards found at Half
-way river, specimens of which I send containing
fish scales ___ Yesterday I visited the
half way river, not knowing from your letter

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whether you meant the Bridge at Mount Denson
at the mouth of the River or another about a
mile higher up to the south where the fresh

road now goes I thought it best to begin below
and ascend the River__ The first rocks which
make their appearance are coarse sandstones
of every shade of colour from white to deep
brown, but periodically grey. They are
stratified and dip to the North East__
I found no fossils except 2 or 3 casts of pieces
of tree too indistinct to ascertain their genera.
In following the river up, a creek branches
off to the East which I also followed
up for some distance, finding the
bottom of the creek and the hills
on each side made up of coarse sand

-stones__ When I arrived above
the bridge it was near night and
I could not make as full examination as
I could wish. The face of the
is strewn with which freestone of an
excellent quality. The Eastern banks, to
the southward of the Bridge is made
up of layers slate of lighter or

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deeper shades of colour, with now and then
an .. mixture of a layer of (which slightly
effervesces with acid) what may be called
limestone ^ about ... and interlaced with seams of

The bed of the river

is strewn with masses of this, and with
large blocks of freestone, with ripple marked
slabs __ On the ripple marked or perhaps
s some instances fucoid slab, sometimes
occur fish scales, but then are most abund
-ant in the micaceous slate. I found no
shells unless you concede one of the specimens
sent is such, I have a larger on which has
much the appearance of the internal and middle
half of a mussel. As Mr. Logan found
shells at the Bluff similar to the
specimens, I should think it highly probably,
if loose, that they were brought down from
Windsor by the ice cakes which sometimes
carry away considerable rocks __ but I
shall make myself more sure about this

when I have time to visit the ... locality

One of the fossil plants appears to me almost

if not quite carbonized__

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One of the slabs from the Halfway River contains

impressions which look to me very like the back

bone of a fish, with the lateral smaller bones coming

off; but having nothing to compare it with

and having never seen any specimens of the kind, & it

being too large to send to you, I must remain in

ignorance of its name for the present. The specimen

marked Halfway River No 1. Contains a shagreen

like impression new to me. Is it the skin of a fish?

I have another specimen longer and wider, from these

sides of which come out two processes which look like

teeth ^,

^curved and the parts sticking out of the stone, looking not unlike talons of a bird

and the whole things looks to be a skull jaw bone -

probably you will know what it is at once.

I was very much obliged to you for your very

kind attention in the matter of the specimens of

shells also. As I am only just beginning enquiries of this kind, everything is new to me. I have

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sent a few shells such as I have picked up and shall in future be glad to exchange any that I may pick up for such as you can readily spare. If you were also to give me a list of shells as you know to belong to NScotia, it would be of service to me by enabling me to concentrate my enquiries to a smaller No. of shells_ I have also sent you a few of the fossil shells such as I can readily put my hands upon and shall be very happy in future if I find anything new to communicate with you_

And now, my dear Sir, I hope you will excuse this very hurried letter and believe me very sincerely yours

E F Harding

Appendix 2

Transcription of a handwritten letter (August 10, 1847) from Dr. E. F. Harding to J. W. Dawson. Illegible words are noted with "...", and the margin spacing is maintained in the transcription to aid in comparison with the originals. McGill University Archives, MG1022_Acc2211-171_08-10-1847.

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... 10th August 1847

My dear Sir

I thank you for the letter and
the very interesting specimens of *Flustrada*
received by Mr Forbes__ I will make
you up a box of our fossils and plaster
which will serve you for exchanges and
send it to the care of any person in Halifax
you may mention, as I may never have a
direct opportunity of sending a box of much
weight from here direct_ At present
I send you by Mr. Rev? G. DeWolf who has
provided to take charge of them a few
specimens of Gypsum to fill up__ I cannot
at present send you any better specimens
of Orthoceras than the part of one sent and

the impression of another as I suppose__
I found one on the face of a rock this spring
perhaps 8 inches long, a part was fully distinct
with chambers & syphuncle, the remainder was
gone, but the impression on the stone
was very similar to the past named specimen
I have sent__. I could not break it from
the stone without in a great measure

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destroying it. I have the remains of it &
two or 3 specimens more, perhaps better than
these sent but have unfortunately mislaid
them__ I send you the only specimen I
have yet seen of *Cyrtoceras*, if it be that,
which I can do very well as I have the
impression present in the stone from which
it is taken. There seems to be no appearance
of syphuncle (sic) or chambers, but perhaps as
in the *Orthoceras* they are not in the
terminating extremity__ I have
sent a few specimens of a species of *Cypraea*
inhabiting a neighbouring pond - and

some native Copper from Cape D'Or
You were so kind so as to send me
a list of native shells and many
specimens of them I have, as, *Buccinum*
.... & *Turritella* . *Purpura Lafeallis* [sic? *Purpura lapillus*]
Littorina paliata & *Rudis*, *Natica* *Heros*
Paludina, *Helix alternata*, & ...
species ..., *Pecten magellanicus*,
Modiola .. & *plicatula*, *Astarte*
castanea, *Venus Mercenaria*,
Petricula, *Pholadiformis*, *Mya arenaria*,
Spirobis ^..... __ Any of the others of which
you may happen to have abundant specimens

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I should be pleased to procure__
With kind regards to Mrs Dawson I remain
very truly yours
E F Harding

With regard to plaster, do you only want
the selenite, or other specimens also, of
different colours and species?

Appendix 3

Transcription of a handwritten letter (April 16, 1855) from Dr. E. F. Harding to J. W. Dawson. Illegible words are noted with "...", and the margin spacing is maintained in the transcription to aid in comparison with the originals. McGill University Archives, MG1022_Acc2211-177_04-16-1855.

Note: The illness that the Harding's suffered in the winter of 1854 was likely typhoid fever (Pers. Comm. Allan Marble, 2019).

Windsor 16th April, 1855

My dear Sir,

You may send me twenty copies of your forthcoming work on the Geology of Nova Scotia for subscribers; and if you think proper to forward me a few copies more on sale it is likely I could disperse of them during the summer. With your full knowledge of the subject I am very glad that you have undertaken to supply a desideration in our Literature long called for by scientific foreigners visiting our Province, and very much needed by our own Community which was beginning to awaken

to the value of our coal fields and minerals
and who ought to know that respected speculations
in them might be connected with some acquaintance
with Geology__ I hear them repeat that you have
a fair chance of being called to the Professional
Chair of Natural History in the University of
Edinburgh, with mingled regret and pleasure.
Regret, that we should lose your valuable services
in this your native Province, and the opportunity
of seeing you occasionally; pleasure because

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such an appointment would give free scope for
the extent of your talents, give you the most
... opportunities for the successful pursuit
of the various departments of Natural History, bring
you with contextual intercourse written...level
scientific minds and indeed, with you to
reflect much greater honour on your native
Country than a continued residence in it
could effect.

I am now, I humbly report, slowly recovering from a

long and severe illness__ Last Autumn Mrs. Harding
and one of my daughters were the subjects of
fever, one in ... & the other at Home_ This
gave me, of course great anxiety and fatigue
and in the beginning of October I was also
seized with Fever. In a few weeks, I was
convalescing, when sever... and
their complaints set in which have kept
me until lately very miserable & weak.
But I am now beginning to do a little and
hope that as the fine weather sets in
I may recover a measure of health and
strength_ God has most mercifully spared

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our lives and my wife and daughter are now
as well apparently as before their illness.

With kind regards to Mrs. Dawson

I remain, dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

E F Harding