

From Professor JAMES HALL.

*To the President and Trustees of Columbia College.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have recently learned that Professor T. Sterry Hunt, F.R.S., of the Geological Survey of Canada, will be a candidate for the Chair of Geology to be filled in the Mining School connected with Columbia College, and I beg leave to offer my most cordial recommendation in his favor. I have known Mr. Hunt personally for many years, and have been familiar with the course of his studies and investigations; and it is not too much to say that he has done more than any other person to advance and establish upon a clear and indisputable foundation, the science of Chemical Geology and Mineralogy. In his knowledge of Structural Geology, also, I regard Mr. Hunt as holding a pre-eminent position. But his *status* among scientific men is not to be left to the opinion of his immediate friends and co-laborers: the record of his published investigations is quite sufficient to place him in the front rank among all those cultivating chemical and geological science. The courses of investigation pursued by Mr. Hunt are especially applicable to the teaching required in a School of Mines.

I conceive it to be of the first importance to all institutions where science is taught, to secure the services of men who can show to the world by the published record of their investigations, that they are not only capable of keeping up with the progress of science, but of advancing our knowledge of the departments in which they are working. It is by this means that the world becomes aware of the sources of progress in science; and to such places and such teachers will those students resort who wish to prepare themselves to enter the arena, whether for scientific investigation for its own sake, or for its practical application to the wants of civilized life.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES HALL.

ALBANY, January 5th, 1866.