

"The Geological Survey has added to its old title that of "Natural History Survey." This opens up to it a vast field of research and labor, and the practical results, under proper direction, will certainly be of the highest importance.

"Lastly, I would say, let men of talent, to whatever nationality they may belong, be freely appointed to the Survey. Doubtless these appointments to the several positions on the Survey cannot be a mere matter of patronage; men of ability must be found. But the search for merit and scientific acquirement must be a thorough search; otherwise, there is danger of overlooking men who would have rendered real service, and selecting persons of an inferior talent, who may happen to be forthcoming or recommended.

"Such, Mr. Chairman, are the ideas which occur to me in relation to the enquiry ordered by the House as to the Geological Survey. The subject is an exceedingly difficult one, owing to the thousand and one little secondary or personal questions which may spring from it, but it is also a highly important one, which I am happy to see entrusted to a Committee so enlightened as yours. I am quite confident that the Canadian Geological Survey will emerge from the little storm through which it is now passing, full of vigor and ready to undertake fresh discoveries. With skilful and enlightened management, with good understanding between the members composing it, it is capable of rendering immense service to the country.

"With very great respect, your obedient servant,

"J. A. K. LAFLAMME."

"ROBERT N. HALL, Esq., M.P., Ottawa."

"HARVARD COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., March 26, 1884.

"DEAR SIR,—I have your circular of the 18th inst., concerning the methods of conducting Geological Surveys. My acquaintance with this class of work was mainly acquired as Director of the Kentucky Geological Survey, a position which I occupied for eight years.

"The works published during the period in which I had charge of this Survey were as follows:—

"Reports of progress, consisting of special reports concerning matters of economic importance, assembled in five volumes. There are about fifty of these separate reports. Each was separately published; the whole afterwards assembled, year by year, in volumes of about 500 pages.

"Second, memoirs, of which two (2) volumes were published. These contain matters of purely scientific interest.

"My experience is, that the State of Kentucky found it very profitable to publish the most detailed economic reports that could be prepared. To give these reports their full value, they should be arranged to prepare the way for exploitation, other than exploration. Besides the reports, I found it very advantageous to provide intending adventurers with all the help in the way of advice, on the ground, that they desired, at its actual cost.

"I think that it would be a great mistake to separate the statistical work from the investigation of the geology. Every mine should be frequently examined by the Government geologists. This work can be combined with the statistical enquiry. It is cheaper to do the work all together.

"As to the desirability of procuring and preserving mine statistics, there is hardly any room for doubt. In no other way can a chief geologist see what is from time to time the economic development of the resources that it is his business to keep in mind.

"The Kentucky Survey is at present under the management of my former pupil, later my assistant, Mr. Proctor. I have sent your letter to him, requesting him to forward to you such reports as are still in store.