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The Rectory  
Brampton St. Thomas  
(Chesterfield)

Dec 29/76

My dear Sir

I must not allow another day to pass without writing to thank you for so kindly sending me your most valuable and interesting series of papers on the newly discovered fossil mammals of America. I had previously only seen brief notices of some of your discoveries, in 'Nature'. Your papers found a veritable Xmas box as they arrived on the morning of that day.

It would appear that you

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have actually got hold of, some of the 'missing links' the birds with teeth are most remarkable. The *Dromotherium* also is a most interesting and extraordinary animal, the shape of the head of the living animal must have been very strange and ungainly; I was struck with the striking resemblance between its teeth figured in your beautiful plates, and those of the Rhinoceros, especially when the crowns of the teeth are worn, as in Plate III. a resemblance however with very great discrepancies.

I fear I can make you

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but a very trifling return for your kindness, the papers on the Creswell Cave you have doubtless already seen, Prof. Boyd Dawson and myself have the report of last years work nearly completed which will shortly be read, our discoveries during the summer have been highly important, I will send you the papers when published. The other papers I send you are I fear hardly worth your acceptance.

I am  
Yours truly  
J. Hayden Dello.