**Supplementary Material 1**

Transcription of a letter from Andrew Crombie Ramsay of the Geological Survey to James David Forbes, Principal of the United College, University of St Andrews. Published courtesy of the University of St Andrews Library (msdep7/Incoming Letters 1865/46 (a,b)).

London 26 May 1865

My Dear Sir

I received your letter, the papers, & the beautiful little map today on my return from the country, and as I am going to bind all my glacial papers for Country use, they have just come in time. I have an idea some day of putting together all I know about glacial periods, especially the last great one, and though I may not do it for years, I may possibly plan it before the year closes. I fancy that Mr Croll of Glasgow is at present engaged on a memoir on changes of climate in geological periods. I have a very high opinion of him, He is a singularly modest man, and I suspect is almost quite self-educated.

 I do not expect all my friends to be convinced by my arguments on lake-basins, but it is at all events a great satisfaction to me to find that many of the rising younger men follow my views on that subject, and indeed on denudation generally. I think when that is the case it is rather a good sign of a theory.

Yours very truly

*Andrew Ramsay*