

London Oct. 27. 1866

My dear Dawson

I received a letter a few days ago from Sir Charles Bunbury in which he called my attention to your paper in the Feb'y 1859 N^o. of our journal as "admirable & of great importance, one of the most material additions to our knowledge of vegetable structures in Coal that we have had for a long time." Although I had been much struck with it when it was first read I had not fully appreciated till I re-perused it in print - The doctrine of the mineral charcoal being formed by plants decaying in the air is a grand step & seems to me very unanswerable. What you say also of the Sigillaria & Calamites & their not having been of lax & soft texture but of slow growth is most interesting. The number of genera found of Sigillariae in one foot of coal in short the whole paper teems with grand results & makes us wish for your continuation.

ation in giving us the history of the other
seventy six successive coal beds of the
South Goggin.

I wrote to Williams to know if he had
found confirmation of the colimate found by us
& he answered by sending me sections illustrating
his view & showing that your suggestion in
the note of our specimen having accidentally
slipped into another step and by no
means explain it. Bumbury has W's letter
or I would have sent it.

Another *Stereognathus solitarius*
jaw has turned up in the Strassfield slate -
an animal about the size of a hedgehog but
I fear we shall learn nothing new from
it.

Falconer has made out clearly the
former existence of a small elephant the
size of a shell and pony in the small
island of Mull. They have also found
an hippopotamus there & a giganter

the size of a rat - but I
fear Falconer being to go to Sicily
for his health will prevent our
having a printed announcement of
these discoveries.

The African elephant, living species
has turned up in the Sicilian fauna
together with the extinct Cape hyena
(*H. crocuta* I think it is called) showing
the comparatively recent land-connection
between Sicily & the African
continent between which there is
a very shallow sea 200 or 300 ft
deep.

We have found an upper miocene
brown coal formation in Deventer in
the Boven heart resting on granite.

I hope you endeavor to find plants
in the Deventer. Will not the Lower
Tertiary strata turn out somewhat

April - Oct 1860

Should have got
organize. We have some indications
of three ~~trifid~~ ^{New York} fossils
Engl. accord & Choones Sp.
Amer exhibited at the
Brit. Assoc: meeting - but very
small creatures. Why does not
Enman give us some more in-
formation about the Carolina
ancient Dromotherium

I abandon the Old Red
reptile which will gratify the pro-
gressive some of whom still feel in-
clined to adhere to it - The Ichthyosaurus
I mean. If Darwin theory is ever
established it will be by the facts &
arguments of the progressivity such as
regarding whose development doctrine so
three parts of the way tho' they don't
seem to see it. Thanks for favouring Nat
Hist. Mag.

Dear yours
Chadwell