

Lyell
Nov/63 59 Harley St
London

W.
Nov. 5. 1863

My dear Dawson

I delayed writing till the first meeting of the Geol. Socy of London in full expectation of leaving yesterday when the Secy of the Brit. Assocⁿ & the President of the Geol. Sectⁿ at Newcastle had placed your paper & illust^s on the coal plants. But to my great disappointment these gentlemen did not appear. I have written to learn about it & had already ascertained that the paper was very well received & described. Mr J. Phillips Prof of Geol at Oxford & our Birmie so well versed in coal plants, being spoken at length & in commendation of the drawings all the talk place before my arrival at Newcastle for I was only present at half the meeting -

I have however talked over the matter of publication with several persons but do not well see any way as yet -

John Lyell
My dear Dawson

But when I get the paper & drawings I will catalogue them at the G.S. The great drawback is that except Hooker & Brumby who are so seldom in town there are scarce any fossil botanists of note.

I hope to have seen Morris your lady but he did not appear.

Of the Canadian geol. survey who owe so much to Logan told us here to your assistance were as liberal as the Victoria legislation in Australia & and who may for publishing your plants - could not be got from that survey & and surely be a legitimate object of Government patronage -

Your air-weathering of the Coal is very interesting & tells a wonderful tale - I was glad to

See you call things by their right
names & that you did not allow mere
antiquity to be a reason for calling a
paper by a new generic appella-
tion -

The restoration of the reptiles
pleased me much - As I was in
Wales & Scotland all the summer
& autumn
I had no time & have not yet had
" opportunity to talk with geologists on
your paper yesterday being the first
meeting in town & a prof of surgery
before us -

In Wales I got 20 species
of shells of British & arctic shells
specimens a northern or glacial fauna
from those well known beds mentioned
by me "Antiquity" p. 267 a regular beach
deposits 30 feet thick & the top
of it 1360 feet above the sea!!

Since I was there on the Dartmoor
has raised the number to 53 species
all recent & northern but not so
very cold as the Tife beds mentioned
you at p. 510 of the Appendix where
35 species of mud-inhabiting shells
all known to Torell as living at
Spitzbergen have been found without
any admixture of species of Norway
Sweden & Finmark or more southern
form - But Melløyfjorden near
Caernarvon is 200 miles S. of Elix in
Tife what may partly account for
the difference -

In regard to publishing a coal flora
if a separate work was undertaken for the
public it might be necessary to treat the
subject generally but scientific societies like
the Royal & Geol. Soc. always prefer local
& special treatises. but I confess I do not see my
way - I hope soon to get a sight of your
drawing sent to Newcastle & that if I remember
rightly you told them to send ^{on} ~~the~~ to me