McGill College.
Montreal. Nov 11, 1876

My dear Sir,

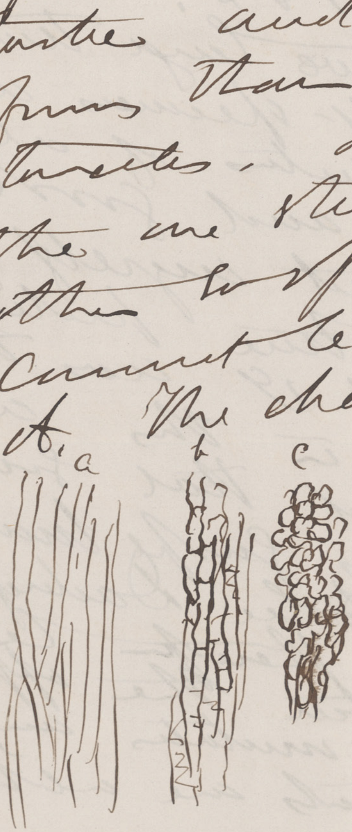
When I wrote to you by Monday's mail I had not received your note of Oct 15 by Mr Stell= well, whom I have seen and like much. He has I think fallen into first hands here; and I gave him notes of introduction to some professional men likely to be useful to him, and have asked him to call again and inform me how he gets on.

About the [illegible] in so far as what you

call the true Rabdoneles
is concerned I may refer
to my last letter; but
about the Spinal Par-
enchyma in the other
Specimens I trust You
will allow me to say
that it is nothing but
a change caused from after
other tissue. I have
carefully gone into this
and I think mentioned
to you when in London that
any two of my sections are
perfectly preserved throughout
the others have the structure
in part but in part
are merely crystalline. What
You call Parenchyma is
nothing but a remnant of the

granular crystallizations of
quartz pushing the remains
of the organic matter into
shapes resembling cells. This
occurs abundantly in the
Silicified & calcified conifers
of the Carboniferous and
of the present more fre-
quently and deeper
forms than in Proto-
zoa. I have traced
the one structure into the
other so often that I
cannot be deceived by
it. The change is thus

A. a b c



a b c being very different states of the same tissue — a being the disorganized remains of the vegetable matter invaded in granular

quarts. This change takes
place even in ~~the~~ most
durable conifers woods
e.g. Dadoxylon of the coal formation
If you have a specimen of
Witham's Lennel Braes tree
you will see it, or can
refer to his plate III and
plate IV figs 1 & 8. In the
case of the two large trunks
of which I left specimens with
you I made sections of all
parts bad and good
and satisfied myself of
~~there~~ being the true position
~~tracheids~~ and I was thus as
more convinced in that since
I had hoped that some
of the numerous Scotch trunks
would prove to be Dadoxylon
~~but~~ you may therefore be
pretty apparent that ~~the~~ appearance
[illegible] is of imitations may
[illegible] the trunks are [illegible]
that with

but contrary both to
Stratigraphy and animal
fossils as well as plants
and would necessitate
the Carboniferous to
be extended all the
way to the Upper Silurian

Both Devonian and Silurian
plants have been
united & the richest
of the Middle Devonian
Flora which of course
gives more points of
analogy & the carboniferous
than the Upper Devonian
does. In point of fact the
analogy stands thus

Upper Devonian & Upper Carboniferous — Flora poor but not peculiar
Middle Devonian & Coal Formation — Flora rich and varied & with many similar species
Lower Devonian & Lower Carboniferous — Flora poor and with peculiar forms.

Ed

P.S. I learn that Beer is inclined to regard his plants from Beer's Fork as Carboniferous. Now I, as I am also told, the collection contains Archaeopteris & Cyclostigma this can scarcely be, as there are characteristic Devonian genera. Further I am told that he seems to regard the Chemung (Upper Devonian) of America and my St John beds about are below the Chemung and Middle Devonian as Carboniferous also. This must be consistent