

73 Harley Street
April 29th 1841.

My dear Dawson

I have two letters from you both of which reached London when I was travelling about Devonshire & Cornwall on my laster geological excursion in company with my wife & Mr. Hughes of the geological survey. I was not able to receive letters regularly being afraid of losing them as we were always on the move & obliged to make changes in some of our plans. As soon as I got back to London I wrote to Stokes & cannot understand why I have not heard from him but hope to do so from day to day, as I find your son cannot help me with any intelligence, nor can Carrattiers whom I have seen about it. I presume

that Stokes' delay may be caused by his being
sometimes at Cambridge to which I wrote &
sometimes in town & perhaps he may be waiting
to comply with certain forms of the Royal Society
before he can send me the MS. & Plates.

I cannot believe there will be any difficulty
& I confess the reasons you give in favour of an
independent publication in America where you will
be able to speak your mind fully seem to me to
favour that mode of dealing with the matter.

I happened to see an unpublished proof
of next month's Geological Magazine that which
will come out in May in which an abstract was
given of the Geological Proceedings containing among
other papers yours on the Devonian tree-ferns
read when I was absent, at our G. S. & as

I was told very well received. In the same proof
of the forthcoming Magazine there was an account
of a scientific meeting in America, Montreal I
think in which an account of the very same facts
by you was printed. It did not appear to me
that it might not have been in a speech of
yours such as might have been delivered at
our British Association & which would not
have been considered as equivalent to publication,
but a member of the Geol. Soc. who had been
looking at the Magazine showed it to me
& asked me, whether I did not think the one
abstract was so like the other that it looked as
if two separate channels of publication had been
chosen for the same paper which our
scientific societies are anxious to avoid.
I merely said that there was no evidence
of this.

Spell May 21/

I asked Carnethers on what ground he thought Protocystites was an alga & he went into an elaborate description of minute microscopic structure which I could not follow so as to feel it safe to attempt an abstract from recollection: it makes me very curious however to see your account & drawings.

All I can promise is not to lose a day after your son & I get possession of the Id etc from the B.S.

I am glad to hear your son is to have some fields work with the survey with kind remembrance

I Mrs Dawson believe
ever affly
Ch Lyell