

M. Gill College.  
Montreal.

My dear Sir Charles,

I was rather

surprised yesterday to receive  
a letter from Prof Stokes, in-  
terminating the decision of the  
Committee on Papers of the N.S.  
not to publish my memoir  
on the Devonian Plants. I had  
supposed that there was no  
doubt about the publication, but  
as to the number of plates,  
I suppose the result  
is not surprising considering the course  
of Palaeobotany in England,  
This decision requires that I should  
myself publish the paper, which I shall  
do here; and in which, in so far  
as the Canadian plants are con-  
cerned, I shall be aided by the Society  
~~and~~. We need pay however for  
me to secure my MS. & drawings, as

I shall have trouble and  
expense enough without re-  
proaching these, and several  
of the plants figured were bor-  
rowed from Dr. Wm. and  
from Albany and it would  
be troublesome to get them again.

I have therefore sent a  
formal application to the Council  
for my M.S., promising to return  
it and also to furnish the  
Society with copies of the  
Mentions for such Fellows as  
care for them. In order to  
facilitate this I have taken  
the liberty of asking them  
to deliver the M.S. to me,  
and now beg leave to  
request that if sent to  
me you will return it

and I shall ask George  
to call for it and to  
forward it by mail. I have  
taken this course because I  
feared that the Council might  
hesitate about sending it to  
George or mailing it at their  
own risk and expense.

Stokes mentions in a very  
kind private letter the reasons  
which he supposed influenced the  
Committee. They are such as  
might be expected & weigh with  
men unacquainted with the sub-  
ject, and which it would  
be useless to attempt to answer  
unless I were present. One relates  
a matter of fact; the improper  
that the matter of this memoir  
has been previously published. This  
is not the case. All the matter  
is new and additional & previous  
publications, which I never have

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My Dear  
Sept 11

I hurried up W as to present  
the whole of my results  
together.

This disappointment may  
be for good, as by publishing  
the memoir here it will have  
more effect in Canada and in  
the United States, and the few  
who care for such matters in  
England may easily get access  
I had however hoped to some  
good by means of it in England  
as well. I find however more  
and more that little can be done  
in London unless one is there;  
and therefore, unless I can secure  
of three days' furlough from my college  
life here and take up my quarters  
in England or Scotland, I may as  
well give up the idea of pursuing  
scological subjects except with reference  
to the American public. Perhaps as  
science education increases in England some  
opening may be found for me. In the  
mean time I shall work here and  
publish my poor plants of Port-Blancaire, the  
only things I have time for on this side.  
With thanks for your kindness & advice and  
much love to your wife & baby I am  
Yours truly  
W. Dawson