



E. H. Bellings

*Selwyn*

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA

(Museum, and Office, 76 S. Gabriel Street) MONTREAL.

7<sup>th</sup> Dec

1871

Dr J. W. Dawson

My Dear Sir,

The other night when I saw you at the N.H. Soc. I had not seen your report on Hossil plants. It was only after the meeting was over that I saw a copy the way I have looked it over and cannot refrain from writing to express my admiration of the work. I consider this by far the most important contribution that has been issued by the Survey, in Palaeontology. I think Mr Selwyn is under much obligation to you for giving his benevolence a start with a first class

monograph. Shortly  
after he came here  
while speaking on  
the subject of publishing  
books, I told him  
that for the present  
there were only two  
subjects that nearly  
required to be monographed,  
1. On the Fossil plants  
by you

2. On the primordial  
fossils.

Before this latter can  
be brought out there  
must be several years  
collecting done, and  
a good artist engaged,  
Moreover 2 decades  
will be required  
On the Asiatic

group and another  
on the Lower Potsdam?  
(This is a doubtful name)

In this latter group  
Meyton and I have  
brought up the  
number of species to  
about 100. But they  
are most difficult  
as ~~the~~ more than  
half of them belong

1 To new genera or

2 Badly defined genera or

3 Disputed genera

Moreover there is no  
immediate necessity  
for their publication. The  
case is different for  
the plants. I feel not  
a little proud that  
your monograph is

to be regarded as  
a publication of our Anniversary.

Weston showed me  
your list of names  
to whom you  
send copies. None  
of them are on  
my list.

Yours

Very truly  
C. Billings

