

William

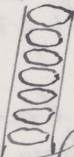
Fallowfield

Manchester Feb. 19/70

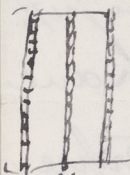
My dear Dr Dawson

Like yourself I am wholly
at a loss to know how Binney
can regard his plant as a
Sigillaria. I have got a mag-
nificent series of sections of *S*
as well as specimens with the
back leaves in situ. It is
one of the type of my plant
from Burnt-island - i.e.
with short imbricated leaves
and, as I told Binney in writing
within the day before I received
your letter, if it be not a
Lepidodendron we must blot
that genus out of our lists.

Thus far you & I are agreed, (but now we diverge widely. I carefully abstain, as I always have abstained, from passing an opinion upon the plants of another Continent of which I have not been able to study the specimens; hence I cannot pass sentence upon yours; I can only say that, though Sigillariae are as common amongst us as they are with you, I have not yet found a trace of any plant corresponding with your description. I have now got any number of examples corresponding to what Brougniart calls Sigillarian structure - c c

Diploxyloid stems, but I can, in every instance, demonstrate their Lepidodendroid character. With us nothing has yet turned up having a Sternbergian pith except Dadoxylon - I have already told you my interpretation of your specimens of Sigillaria which you refer to - I have examined them again and yet again but I cannot find any true Dicicigerous structure in them. I find  but this appears to me to be but a modification of scaleniform tissue. I am never satisfied that I have got Dicicigerous structure unless

I have obtained tangential sections which show the head-like arrangement of the discs between the contiguous fibres,



as represented in my memoir on Dadoxylon, and in the later memoir in the Monthly Microscopical Journal. Now all your disks appear to me to be internal to the ^{cells or fibres} fibres & hence, ^{are} something dependent upon the peculiar arrangement of the ^{deposit} ~~fibres~~ of lignine forming the spiral or scalloped bands which is a very different thing from coniferous disks. I have just got a most magnificent series of longitudinal & transverse sections

of our *Trigonocarpus Nägerrathii*
just imagine nine longitudinal
dial sections forming a
consecutive series out of
one specimen - and 18th such
consecutive, ^{transverse} sections from between
the two extremities of another
one. - These I shall describe
& figure in the memoir on
which I am engaged, amongst
the other curious seeds of
which I have worked out
the internal structure, - our
Trigonocarpus appears to me
very different either from
Brougniart's, or from his
Hesperospermum to which

new genus he refers our type
I am much obliged to
you for your permission
to make use of your
definition of *Sigillaria*
and shall certainly do so
in my memoir when
discussing the probable
relationships of *Frigoscarpon*
At present I am at sea
about the latter point;
but, believing, as I do, that
Sigillaria was Lepidodendron
I cannot see my way

to connecting Trigoucarpo
with Sigillaria

I wish I had you here once
more. The small collection
which you saw has now
swollen to about thirteen
hundred sections - I hesitate
not to say, the finest col-
lection of the kind in the
world! - There is vanity for you
I wrote to Newberry asking
him for a copy of his
report - but he has not
even acknowledged my
letter - I am sorry to
see that Hayden is having

trouble with his state
officials.

I am ever yours

W. L. Williamson

Along with this I send a
little brochure with which
you will quarrel on
two or three points!!