

William

Fallowfield

Manchester Oct 22/79

My Dear Friend

Your welcome letter came to my breakfast table this morning and as I was just about writing to you I sit down to do so at once. 1st as to my son. He was delighted with his Transatlantic tour and entertains the most grateful feelings towards you & your family for your great kindness towards him. He speaks of writing to you. 2nd as to your fern. It is altogether new to me, and very different from *Onychopteris* especially in the Co-relation of the radiating lamellae of vessels with their corresponding leaves. I think you may safely describe it as entirely new

and without any reference to
what has been described elsewhere,
I think that Asteropteris would be as
good a name as any. If you make
a new genus of it - though I rather
shrink more & more from adopting
this plan in the case of each new plant
which we only know from the in-
ternal organization of its stem, I
should prefer recognizing all the
fossil Treeferns under the common
name of Protopteris - were that possible.

Have you got Renault's new memoir.
It contains lots of errors on questions
of fact, as well as of interpretation
but it is remarkable for its
fairness to his opponents - and for its
admissions that each question has
two sides, but he must give
in. I have now got my
Lepidodendron Selaginoides in every
stage of development from the
Lepidodendron vasculare of Binney
to the Dicellaeria vascularis of
the same. I have also now got

the Typical Lepidodendron Marroan
with its exogenous zone, and I
have got the clearest proof that
the Rootlets of Stigmaria must
have belonged to a Lycopodiaceous
plant. I base this conclusion
upon the structure of the roots
of Lycopods, as described by
Van Tieghem - whose observations
I have verified for myself. - As
I have told Renault, if he
adheres to his dogma that an
exogenous zone necessarily means
a Gymnosperm, we shall soon
have to expunge the Lycopo-
diaceae from the Carboniferous
Vegetation, since they will all
prove to be Gymnosperms - !!

I think I have, at last, convinced
Saporta that this woult do. -
My new discovery about L. Marroanii
seems like the Defection of the
Jordan hope.

I have not sent you the
German copies of Weiff's memoir
& my own letter on Asterophyl-
lites, because you would see
the translations of them in
Nature. What do you think
of Lesqueren's Silurian plants?
Some of them seem to me
to have a wonderful Lepi-
Podendroid look about them.
Have these Synpodicaean
types been like Orchisoides
without father or without
descent?

I am ever yours

W. Williamson