

Townsville Queensland  
16 April 1879

My dear Sir

Your esteemed favours of 22 Nov.  
& 5 Dec. last arrived when I was out  
in the Western bush. Accept my best  
thanks for your obliging notes.

I am sorry that I can  
add nothing to the evidence regarding  
the attachment of the bifurcate leaves  
of the Fanning Dicranophyllum to the  
stem. The specimen in your hands is  
the only fossil as yet obtained from  
the horizon in question in Australia,  
so far as I am aware. My own  
impression was that the occurrence of  
the bifurcate leaves beside the stem  
was too regular to be accidental, but  
that the supposed junction of the  
leaves and stem lay below the surface  
of the block.

If I can possibly manage  
to make a short trip to the Fanning  
this winter, I shall make a careful  
search for further specimens which may  
help to throw light on the interesting  
question raised by you.

I am under orders to examine

the District around Cooktown with special reference to the possible existence of Coal, and start in a few weeks.

These orders give me peculiar pleasure, as they will afford me better opportunities than anybody has had yet of studying the relations of the Devonian, Carboniferous & so-called "Mesozoic Carbonaceous" forms of Australia. I shall have much pleasure in communicating the results to you as early as possible - and will keep a good look-out for fossils.

I am

Yours very truly

Robert H. Jack

P.S. If you can put in my way any American Pal. publications, I shall be grateful. Here there are no libraries worth the name. The newest paleontological books are at Sydney.

Principal Dawson L.D., F.R.S.

McGill College

Montreal

Canada

Robert L  
~~Byrd~~  
Gard

April 24<sup>th</sup>  
1874

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