

University of Virginia, Va

March 9th 1886

Sir William Dawson,

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged for the copy, with plates, of your Mesozoic Flora &c. On looking over the plates I do not find a single species that I would without hesitation identify with any of mine, although there are several more or less close approximations. The general facies of the Virginia flora is markedly different from that of any of your groups, while it indicates an age nearer to that of your Kootanie beds. I am struck with the very old aspect of the plants you figure on plate I. They remind me of the Phleic flora, I have forms that in the shape of the leaflets resemble your Podzomites lanceolatus, but yet they are different, I think. Yours is, no doubt, a Cycad, and the true P. lanceolatus. I have a leaf something like Palmisus ovalis, but ^{it is} most probably a different plant. There are of those curious plants that seem to be intermediate between Sassafras and Arolia, It has some of the features of both Aralia reticulata

and A. Westoni, I find these and some other dicots belong in the same beds with many plants of older types, and which, so far as they have hitherto been found and described, occur in the Wealden strata, in Heis Konig plants, and among those in Schenk's Wernsdorf beds,

Yours truly

Wm M Fontaine

Fontaine

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Re Kootanic