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Copy to
William

McGill College.

Montreal.

July 4/78

My dear Prof. Williams,

I have received
and read with much
pleasure your last memoir
and also your letter of
Dec 16. I am very glad
you have taken to
the quarrying of cret
Syllaine. I took out
one last summer 2 1/2 feet
in diameter and 8 feet
high out of a solid
sandstone reef under
high water mark,
with small result, and

a few bones of reptiles
known to me before
Your chosen plants have
the unusual advantage
of showing the structures
as to the plurality of
axes I have no doubt
you are right and
Carruthers wrong. I may
however suggest a third
explanation. A tall
hollow tree like that
figured by me in the
last No of the Zoological
Society's Journal may
have its axis fall

of the bottom in several
pieces were on left
side. Such at my
section of the specimen
12 feet long taken out
of the Hill and you
will see this. I have
not found such plurality
of axes but I have
seen a plurality of
Stenoherpia piths on
one such pith curled
up like a serpent
in the bottom of the
tree it belonged to.

By the way you say

It is my "opinion" that
Stembergia axes were in
Syllard's & Lepidodendroid
trees. This is not an
opinion but a fact as
you will see by reference
to my paper of 1870
where I figure several
large Stembergiae along
with specimens of the
Scolaniform & pseudo-
Scolaniform tissue actually
surrounding them. Besides
my erect stem figured in
the same paper has a
distinct Stembergia, very rapidly
forming tree with numerous leaves
might have had ~~axes~~
a pith = cylinder

I am sorry you have

Not been able to find
the like of my *Cyadon*
Syllaria; but such an²
varieties are frequent, as
for instance in the ab²
undance of *Stemburgae* here
and their rarity with you
and in the rarity of
Arduites with you, the
abundance of the leaves
here without stems and
of the stems here. There
things belong to the un²
perfection of the beard.

In like manner our
great 36 feet seam of
Coal at Pictou is largely
made up of the *Stemburgae*

of my sigillariae while
many other levels in
Mwabaha & Cape
Methu show more
of scalariform textures
and little of the
dotted or semi-disaggregous
type.

I shall be able to
bring a splendid lot of
facts in illustration of
Palaeozoic conifers when
I can get the slices all
ready made for me by
Mr Weston Jones; but they
grow upon me while
time does not.

This is another point in
which we surpass you. I
have recently had made
slices (3 of each) of no
less than 23 coniferous
trunks, all American,
Dumrican & Carboniferous,
and all showing the
true disc-structure as I
ascertained by chips and
acid preparations before
they were sliced. I do
not yet know how
many species they re-
present. I shall not
again apply to any of
your penny-wire societies
to figure them for me
but shall do it at
my own expense or arrange

with the Geological Survey
here to pay for part.
Before doing this however
I must try to work up
my rich find of Carboni-
ferous reptiles of 1846 which
still lie in my collecting
boxes though I have had
some of the more important
ones drawn for me by
Smeaton and best stored in
that line.

I do not know how you
find time to work; but I have
scarcely any. In your tenth
Memoir you should sum up
all the work done, and then
when the whole is bound together
it will be a most valuable work
of reference. I am glad that your
friends were pleased with their
visit to Montreal; they were very agreeable
and had Mrs Dawson been at
home I could have done more
for them. With all kind wishes to
to all Montreal friends yours sincerely
W Dawson