

Letter to Hunt

M. Gill College.
Montreal.

July 16, 87

My dear Dr Hunt,

I examined
your specimen from Blue
Fern, Nevada, last evening.

It is Seliceipied coniferous
wood, with one row of
large bordered pores on
each fibre, and short
medullary rays. The
characters are those
of the genus Pinus,
and it is not

very far removed from
modern
the Pinus strobus.

Its geological age is
therefore I presume the
same with that
of the auriferous
panels, that is to
say Pliocene or
thereabout.

The season of its
loose and fibrous

Structure seems to be
that the cavities of
the woody fibres and
cells have been in-
filtrated with silica
~~filled~~ and the wood sub-
sequently removed by
oxidation leaving a
mass of minute spicule-
like casts of the
interior of the fibres,
which have however

Faithfully perceived the
structure of the walls
of these fibres. I have
seen tertiary wood
in a similar state
of preservation from
Tasmania.

Truly yours

J. Dawson

P.S. If this is the material
referred to by Prof Whitney as his
resembling asbestos his opinion
respecting it is certainly incorrect

J. D.