

William

Shunt

Fallowfield

Manchester June 15/83

My Dear Dawson

You must long be this
I have concluded yourself forgot
but so far from it, my conscience
has been stinging me for some
time past. ~~What a nuisance~~. The fact
is I have had a tremendous half-
year of work. The Brochure that I
sent you a fortnight ago would
tell you that I had been giving
a series of lectures in London
the Diagrams for which occupied
me almost night & day for
many weeks. Then came our
summer session. We are making
an enormous extension of our
Botanical Department; I have
got a very able assistant lecturer
& we are now carrying on double

courses of lectures and are further
arranging for doing the same
through the Michaelmas & Lent
terms of winter. For these we
have to make a vast accumu-
lation of specimens preserved
in Spirit. Hence you will
not wonder that my hands
have been full -

I have now to prepare for
presiding over Section C at the
next meeting of the B. A. at
Southport and the London
people wish me to make "the
present state of our knowledge
of the Carboniferous vegetation"
the subject of my address - will
you tell me what your
present views are respecting
the relations of Calamites to

Further Calamodendron, and of
Lepidodendron to Sigillaria
I have now got a perfect
swarm of specimens bearing
on these subjects, but they
all support my
well known views respecting
them, without one solitary
exception: At the same time
I am anxious, in my address,
fairly to represent the opinions
of those who differ from me.
Of all the numerous specimens
which I have studied I have not
been one Sigillarian form contain-
ing your tissue with bordered
pits; but true Sigillarian structures
are much more rare with us
than are Lepidodendroid ones.
That the double, or Diplaxylaid
structure is no test of a sigil-
laria or distinct from a Lepidodendron

is as certain as that 2 + 2 make 4. As for the Frenchmen I have given them up in entire despair. They are wholly incapacitated by their national vanity from weighting scientific evidence.

I hear from Sir Alexander Galt that we are going to have the pleasure of seeing you in Europe during the coming winter. In that case come straight here then we can discuss many things that much need discussing. I fear I cannot arrange to come to Canada with the B.A. I could not stay long enough to run through the U.S. and to spend twenty days in sea-sickness or a day even to spend a week in Montreal would be paying a heavy price for even that pleasure - I am such an awful sailor. Anyhow let me hear from you soon and believe me to be as ever
Affectionately yours
W. C. Williamson
Kind regards to Harrington