Acknowledged

Rio de Janeiro,
Sept 6th 1883

Dr. J. W. Dawson:

My dear Sir,

Your favor of July 23d is at hand and I was much pleased to find that the Brazilian specimens had proved so interesting. Should you desire more specimens I can send you some as here I have much more material at my disposition than I had in Washington.

The proof sheets you mention as having sent have not come to hand and I hope that you will be able to send others.

In a previous letter that has been following me around in my travels and has only lately turned up you ask about the horizon

of the rocks containing Spirophyton at Upitiba and Barreiriha on the Tapajos. These were presumed to be Carboniferous as they occur near undoubted Carboniferous sections and no fossiliferous Devonian rocks have been identified in the Tapajos section. No other fossils were found in immediate contact with them and since I have seen the intimate relation of the Carboniferous and Devonian rocks in other regions of the Amazon valley and found the same fossils in strata of the latter age I am led to suspect that the Devonian also occurs on the Tapajos and that these fossils may belong to it, but have no definite data on this point. Prof. Henry S. Williams of Cornell University

can probably furnish you with specimens of the supposed Lepidodendron spore cases of the Sapeja. As I remember them they are smaller and apparently different from those I sent you.

You may perhaps remember a specimen of fossil wood sent you by Prof. Hartt from supposed Devonian sandstone of the Serra de Ererê. I do not remember if I ever mentioned that I found later dicotyledonous leaves in what I consider to be the same formation and that I now suppose it to be of secondary age.

Yours Truly

Orville A. Derby

Museu Nacional

Rio de Janeiro.

Derby
Oct/83