

7 Dover Terrace, Chelsea

London 15.11.83

Dear Sir William

I read your article, ^{in nature} as you ^{may well} suppose
with very great interest - I hope you
will be pleased with - the 3rd &
concluding part of my Coniferæ,
which contains better-species than
hitherto. I disagree with you on
two points - one that the Laramie
beds are Cretaceous, & two that the
Eocene temperature was uniform as
we had a distinctly cool if not
cold period here during the Thanet
& Reading beds. This however is not
my reason for writing - I want
to quote your decided opinions
upon this question -

Do you think that the tropical &
subtropical American species found

in the Alton Bay & Bourne-mouth-
Floras passed from one Continent to
the other to the northward of the
present 1500 fathoms line -

Do you admit that the Flabellaria
figured by Usher from Greenland are
really palms?

Do you hold that while geologists
may move the bottom of the sea
up & down if the present depth is
not more than 1500 fathoms,
greater depths than that are sacred
& permanent - It is a subject
that must develop itself as
my descriptions become published
& my own conviction is that the
doctrine that the Atlantic has
never been bridged except near

the Poles will become perfectly
untenable - The notice I published
in the Geol. Mag. on snails
will show the kind of evidence
which I have stores of -

Yours faithfully

J. Stuart Parnes

Sir Wm Dawson K.C.M.G.

J. Sturtevant
Lardine
