


William

(Massachusetts)

Yellow field Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>  
1890

My Dear Sir William

Your welcome letter  
came to hand a few  
days ago and interested  
me much. The Macro-  
spores are very fine but  
except in the rarity of  
the triangular apical  
mark  amongst them  
and in the absence

of the peripheral fringe  
which is so common among  
our Carboniferous forms they  
appear to be similar  
objects. I see no reason for  
doubting that they are  
true microspores. As for  
the other objects, they are,  
like many of my own Sparo-  
Carbons very unintelligible to  
me. One of my difficulties is  
to distinguish between those  
spherical bodies which contain  
numerous cells that really  
belong to them, and others in  
which similar cells are ap-  
parently intrusive, having  
no normal relations to the  
sphere in which they are found.  
As yet I have utterly failed to  
distinguish the true from the

false - even in the case of  
the common fringed spores,  
which I know to be macro-  
spores because I have got  
them in their parangia and  
attached to the strobili to  
which they belong.

I have just completed my  
Memoir Part XVII which contains  
some curious things. I have  
now fairly identified my  
*Rachiopteris aspera* with my  
*Lyginodendron Oldhamii*  
the former being the petiole  
of the latter. This establishes  
the *Lyginodendron* as a Fern  
with an exogenous stem. In  
its woody zone I have found  
true phloem and phloem rays.  
I have further worked out the  
development of the large  
medulla in *Lyginodendron*.  
It is a seed but even a  
still more remarkable form

of the medullary develop-  
ment described in my last  
number Part XVI. I have  
also got the true stere of  
my Bosmarites (*Bolkommaria*  
*Dawsoni*). It proves to have  
structure corresponding closely  
with that of *Rennelle Sphero-*  
*phyllum Stephansen*, & of  
my *Asterophyllites* described  
long ago. We are as yet  
far from having exhausted  
the entire story of the one  
vast group of the Calamariae.  
We are all sorry for you &  
*Lady Dawson*, but glad for  
ourselves at the prospect  
of having *Dear Eva* so near  
to us. Pray give our love  
to both your dear ones

Ever sincerely yours

Wm C. Williamson