

Principal Dawson  
McGill College Montreal Canada

Kirkbank  
Bursar's Office  
5th June 1871

Dear Sir  
On 23<sup>rd</sup> ulto. I had your note on contents of our local fossil beds. In the Kingscrag fine you find - "a very remarkable plant which you have not met with elsewhere having multicaulosity" "Vessel like Williamson's *Sectyonia*" from which however it differs much in other respects." I don't find your specimen in Jull's Elements or in Balfour's Vol. Botany class book; & my interest in fossil botany is not at all equivalent to my knowledge; the former is new; the latter little but ability to see that fossil organisms differ, & to admire the varieties, as an artist, not microscopist, would.

As it appeared to my naked eye, I described to you a stem (Kingscrag fine. Item No. 1) which, without your examining, you supposed might be a *Stembergia*.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1870 I sent specimens with a label Item No. 1 to Mr. Carruthers' Natural History Museum, calling his special attention to it, trusting your disapprobation & recommendation to consult him, & asking him to specify what it was. In reply he said it was not a *Stembergia*, but he could not then (18<sup>th</sup> Oct 1870) say what it was. He hasn't been able yet to tell me what it is. A week or two ago I handed specimens to both Professors Balfour & Weyville Thomson, in Edinburgh, & posed them both.

At first, new to me, very beautiful, & the leading or characteristic fossil of large portions of the Kingscrag fine, this Item No. 1 has won, the interest of a probable discovery. If from want of scientific lore, I can't tell whether you refer to it, or not, in Simple & Sectyonia. I know I took pains to put in your possession many specimens with well developed specimens of the Item No. 1.



MONTREAL  
AM  
JUL 20 1871  
C.E.

BURNING  
LICKS  
ON

Principal Dawson  
McGill College Montreal  
Canada



Wm. Dawson  
Principal  
McGill College  
Montreal