

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
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McGill College,
Montreal.

Oct. 20, 1871

My dear Sir,

By request of our friend Sir William I went to the Am Nat. a note which you left with him with reference to some errors of Dull's, and shall endeavour to see that it is attended to.

I have also asked the School authorities at Quebec & Montreal to forward to you the Reports on Education which I have no doubt they will do, and I shall send you a few pamphlets relating to this movement of next week.

I had intended when you were here to mention to you my dissatisfaction with the treatment of my Mission

on Devonian plants of the
Royal Society, but had not
opportunity. I now hope
in a few weeks I send
to the Council a few copies
of the paper as printed
here by the Geol Survey,
and nothing but a personal
word from some of my friends
on the Council prevents me
from sending with it a
printed notice saying what
I think in good round terms.

At a time when literally
nothing is known about the
flora of Great Britain before
the Coal, when no reliable
information can be had
even on the several stages
of the Coal flora, when next

of nothing is being done even
in Carboniferous botany, except
by Williamson of Manchester,
and when we are in
England know anything
about the larger generative
that can be deduced from
the coal flora and that
of the preceding periods, my
memory should have been
revisited as a good and tendency
at least a little to strengthen
a very weak point in British
science. The fact that any
further work worthy of
being referred should have
advised its repetition shows me
that I have been inadvertently
throwing my pearls before swine
and that in so far as
Palaeobotany is concerned the

Prof G. D
Leffie

My Society is utterly below
you and unworthy of any
confidence. It would of course
be unwise to say anything of this
publicly unless I were myself in a
land and prepared to fight
the Council to the end; but I
wish them decidedly to understand
and shall be glad if you will
intimate it that in case any
of the small men they regard
as botanical authorities in London
should presume to criticize my paper,
now that it has been printed by
an institution more liberal and
enlightened than the Council of
the R.S. I shall retaliate in
such a manner as ^{will} bring before
the public the whole subject
before the public in a manner to
make some people ashamed of them-
selves.

I have written to you strongly
as to a friend. I shall trouble the R.S. with
no more of my papers; but I wish it to
know that its shortcomings are quite understood
and can be repaired. My yours
J. D. Leffie &
J. D. Dawson