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ACC. NO. 2211/42
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~~McGill~~
University College
Toronto.

Feb. 10th / 72

My dear Sir,

I am somewhat ashamed
of myself for not having sooner
answered your letter; but press
of work is an apology which you
can understand & appreciate.
I am glad to have your opinion
on the specimens of Shieldlaw plants,
& am much pleased that you
do not put them down to "Amel-
icle burrows", as your Mr. Salter
would doubtless have done. I shall
be very grateful to you for a detail-
ed note embodying your opinions
on their structure, & I propose to
utilise it in this way. I do not

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know whether you are aware that
I have been long engaged in the
preparation of a Student's Manual
of Palaeontology, which is now rapidly
approaching completion. Indeed,
I hope to have it ready for press
in about a couple of months.
I have not yet commenced the Botani-
cal part of the work, & I only in-
tend to give a general account
of Palaeobotany, which is of less
importance to the ordinary student
than Palaeozoology. My interest how-
ever, of these ancient plants is so
great that I should be much pleas-
ed if you would give me a detailed
note on the Skiddaw plants, which
I would insert in this work. I may
not have mentioned it; but my
own opinion as to the position of the
Skiddaw Slates is that they are

Upper Cambrian in age; so that
these are nearly the oldest plants
yet known.

Appropos of this work of mine, I have
to ask a favor of you. Would you
object to let me purchase of your
publishers electrotypes of ^{about a} ~~some~~
dozen engravings in your "Acad-
emian Geology". The ones which I
want are chiefly some of the marine
fauna (such as Brachiopods) of the
Carboniferous, the Paradoxides of the
Primordial zone, & the Devonian &
Carboniferous insects. I need hardly
say that the price of these would
be fully acknowledged by me. If
you should have no objection to
this, I will send for your approval
a list of those engravings of which
I should be glad to have electro-
types—

I send you with this an article on
"Sexual Selection", the general
drift of which I believe you will
approve. If suitable for the "Can-
adian Naturalist", I shall be
glad to have it appear therein.
It was originally written for a
Magazine-article; but I found it
impossible to treat the subject in
a manner sufficiently "scient-
ific" for popular reading.

With kind regards to Mrs
Dawson & yourself,

Believe me
yours very truly

H. Alleyne Nichol^{son}

Principal Dawson, F.R.S. &c

McGill College

Montreal