

William



THE OWENS COLLEGE,  
MANCHESTER,

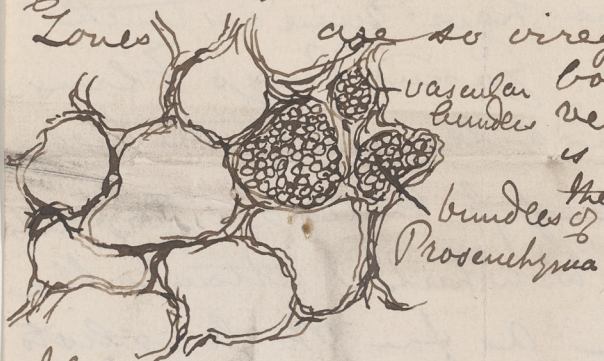
March 27<sup>th</sup> 1877

My Dear Friend

I think I am ever-so-much  
in your debt in the way of letters, as  
I was reminded yesterday by the receipt  
of your criticism of Grand Curys book -  
I too, at his request - have sent a  
short notice of it to Nature - but  
which has not yet appeared - It is  
a very different one from yours, as  
you may expect - He has, unintentionally,  
I have no doubt, misrepresented me in  
so many ways that I told him honestly  
that I could not do what he wanted  
unless I was free, not only to criticise  
him freely - but also to make some  
extracts from his letters to me -  
To this, to my surprise, he consented. -  
I am amused to find that both you

and he has alike fallen into the error  
of making me regard the Calamostachys  
Binniana as Calamitean. That is  
Binnys and Carruthers' notion against  
which I have fought might and  
main. because I am certain it is  
a mistake. Then how he can say that  
my ideas as to the identity of Sigillaria  
with Lepidodendria are merely based on  
some analogies of the bark I cannot  
imagine. What I have such abundant  
evidence to show is that my Burritian  
Lepidodendria and our Red Sea Lepidodendria  
Selaginoides contain all the features  
which the Frenchmen regard as charac-  
teristic of Sigillaria. The evidence  
of the exact identity of the bark of  
Springodendron, <sup>& others</sup> sustains this conclusion  
but is not its main prop. I send  
you along with this a section of a  
young branch of L. Selaginoides in  
which you have the exagonal ring  
well shown. It is there - but in this  
species it never attained to a great  
thickness - The plant being intermediate  
in this respect between L. Harcourtii  
which has no such ring and the

whose cells are elongate in the direction  
of the ray. The meshes between the vascular



are so irregular that I cannot for the life of my ray which is top  
vessel bottom or sides of the specimen. I can say which are trans-  
verse and which are ~~radial~~ vertical sections but that  
is all I can do. I wish I could obtain  
the bark of it to compare with *L. pedunculata*

THE OWENS COLLEGE  
MANCHESTER,

I have, as yet, only seen short notices of  
your paper to the G.S. I want much  
to see it in extenso. I wish my  
8<sup>th</sup> Memoir was ready to send to you  
with its curious seeds. But its printing  
is not yet begun. By the way I  
find nothing in Grand Eury's book  
justifying the conclusion that *Cordaites*  
and *Dadoxylon* are identical. It  
is by no means an improbable fact  
but does he show it to be a fact?

Remember me kindly to Harrington  
What do you think of your new  
Independent Bray. I am curious  
to hear what you make of him

I am my Dear Friend  
very sincerely yours

W. L. Williamson

*Burketia* & arauc types. (The *Arca-*  
*bathra* of Witham) in which this zone  
attained to a great thickness. Two things  
are certain. 1<sup>st</sup> that the section I  
sent you is a *Lepidodendron*. 2<sup>nd</sup> that  
(as my Memoir on which I am work-  
ing will illustrate by a succession of  
draws relative to structure, - origin of  
foliar bundles &c) its organization is  
essentially that of Brongniart's  
*Pigillaria* and as numerous other  
examples lead me to the same  
conclusion I am less than ever  
able to separate the two types -  
by any definable line of demarcation.  
Now all this Grand Eury has  
ignored. As to *calamites* versus  
*Calamodendron*, even he is obliged

to admit the very significant fact  
that no one has yet found an  
example of a Calamites in which  
the structure is preserved. As soon  
as we catch one that looks pro-  
misizing we cut into it and lo! we  
find one of my Calamodendra. I  
marvel that this fact alone does not  
open all your eyes - being how  
common the supposed Calamites are  
everywhere and how improbable it  
is a priori that Oldham, Halifax  
Aulton & St Etienne should not  
have abounded with their remains.  
Grand Eury's statement that I have  
mistaken Sphenophylla for Asterophyl-  
ites is most gratuitous, and without  
a shadow of foundation. Its vertical  
contained 18 or 20 leaves - and each  
leaflet had but one single central  
bundle. If these can be called  
Sphenophylla. I must confess I  
cannot understand that genus or

recognise it when I see it - and  
yet few genera have more distinct  
characteristics. Grand Eury's Ferns  
and his Cordaites are of the highest  
interest. I confess these are the parts  
of the book to which I attach the  
chief value - as for the long lists  
of species I attach precious little  
value to them. We are, as yet, too  
ignorant of genera to be in a po-  
sition to define species with any  
exactitude (what ever we may some  
day become). especially in reference  
to Calamites Ferns & Lepidodendra.  
I was very glad to receive the  
axis of your new Sigillaria. It is  
undistinguishable from my specimens  
from Arran & Buxtonland. -  
I have got from Arran the wood  
of what appears to me to be an  
arborescent Lycopodium but with  
the most extraordinary structure. The  
medullary rays (?) are as broad as long  
and consist of masses of proserubryna