

Guyot  
Princeton N. J. April 3<sup>d</sup>  
1878.

J. W. Dawson LL D &

My dear Sir,

The Notes on Some Scottish Devonian Plants, which you were kind enough to send me, reached me a day or two ago, together with the interesting observations on the Surface Geology of the Pacific Slope, by Dr Geo. M. Dawson, for both of which please receive my thanks.

The question of the earliest land plants is, indeed, one of great interest. Your "Notes" together with the undoubted discovery of land plants of no mean type in the Silurian by Lesquereux, Clappo

of Saposta, seem to indicate that almost as soon as land appeared, land vegetation was present in some shape. How will it be with the Laurentian & Huronian?

You have no doubt, by this time, received the communication of Dr. McCosh inviting you to take charge of the Geological Teaching in our College. Already in 1871, after a severe illness, I requested our Trustees to divide my chair & intrust Geology to some other person. We sought in vain, however, for a suitable man for to fulfill these duties in a manner agreeable to the Trustees. I had, therefore, to continue to take care of my two departments, reducing the number of lectures in each.

Meanwhile our classes have become so large (I have one of 130<sup>stud</sup>) that I consider a division not only desirable, but almost necessary. This implies doubling my duties & a fatigue to which I hardly feel equal.

I therefore, again applied to the Trustees last year to carry out, if possible, the plan I had proposed in 1871, and they are disposed to do it, if they can find the proper person for the place.

If I <sup>had</sup> thought it possible for you to leave the high & useful position you now occupy, to take charge of our College course, your name would have been brought forward long ago. Dr. McLoth thought he had ground for

more hope. If you should conclude to exchange your present field of labor for ours, I need not say that you will be heartily welcome among us, and I dare say that while our College will be the gainer by your healthful influence, Science will not lose the advantage of your labors by a change of scene.

May God direct your choice.

With sincere regard

Very truly yours,

A. Guyot.

