

Columbus Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> 72.

Prof. J. W. Dawson Montreal.

Dear Sir.

I take the liberty to write a few words  
to acknowledge receipt of the two pamphlets which  
you had the kindness to send me; On the  
Structure and affinities of Sigillaria etc. - On the  
Geological structure etc. of Prince Edward Island.  
The second paper was unknown to me; I had read  
the first some years ago and am very glad to have  
it on hand now for it will serve to greatly elucidate  
the question of relation of the Cordaites at least on my  
own point of view. For until I received those  
branches of *Arctia* in connection to Cordaites, I had  
scarcely seen any specimens <sup>of *Arctia*</sup> in our coal measures and  
considered them remains <sup>(*Arctia*)</sup> of a rather Devonian. Your  
remarks on their nature on trunks of Sigillaria's Dadoxylon  
and those of Williamson ~~rather~~ tend by analogy  
to refer Cordaites to Conifers rather than to Cycadea.  
The same conclusion is admitted by Saport and Heer,  
and against opinions so weighty I have certainly nothing  
to say and still less to prove. The first impression  
I received from the reading of your paper is however  
not entirely put aside. If *Arctia* are parts of

Lepidophloeus as shown by Corda; if we find them with Cordaster, Dadynglen, Dicyonylon etc. <sup>Syzzaria</sup>  
We have by anatomical structure a remarkable coincidence which seems to be explainable only in admitting these different genera into a peculiar group partaking of the character of Lepidodermis, Conifers and perhaps of Gleditsia of our time. I have blades of true Lepidophloeus exactly similar in shape and grouping to Lepidophloeus lepidophyllifolium Pl II fig 13a of Goldenberg bearing at the base large rounded agglomerations or masses of macrospores without sporangia just like those figured by the same author for a cone of Syzzaria Pl B figs 23 & 24. If therefore this Lepidophloeus is referable to the Selaginia, Syzzaria must be too.

This is merely a hint. I am not prepared to enter into discussion on matters which I have not been able to see from microscopical and anatomical examination. Schimper asserts that Arbia is ~~of~~ a Lepidophloeus and supposes that I have not seen positive evidence of Arbia's connection with Cordaster and that the specimens may be mixed. They are however perfectly clear.

This letter may reach you for Christmas  
Please accept my compliments of the season  
(as the Americans say) that is, translating the  
meaning in my own sense and feeling represent  
Sincere wishes for your present and future  
well fare -

Sincerely yours

J. Desjardins

If I need the plates of Cordants, I will  
ask for them. I have a very fine new species  
<sup>of Cordants</sup> with leaves nearly oval, small narrower  
to both ends etc. very distinct by their  
nervation. They are subcarboniferous.

Please accept my thanks for the papers

McGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
ACC. NO. 2211/63
REF. 95

*Lesguereux*  
*Sept 8*  
*[Signature]*