

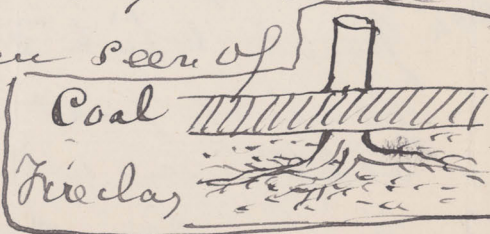
William

Fallowfield. Apr. 13th
1858

My Dear Friend

I received your letter yesterday and was startled to think that Miss Dewson and her mother were leaving so early. How frightfully the time flies... I have been pondering again and again your request for a few hints for your address. Yet how difficult it is to furnish material that can be utilised by another mind. The point which strikes me most forcibly just now is the Scepticism which exists on the Continent respecting the

Stigmariaceae Question. They don't believe our statements respecting the relation of the coals to the Stigmariaceae and Lepidodendroid stems & to the Fireclay - below the coal. I had finished my Map & the plates of my Stigmariaceae Monograph are all on the stone. Along with this I will send you a set of them. But I have had to write an additional note or chapter to re-prove what we thought was already sufficiently proven. Dr Solms of Göttingen does not believe that any instance has ever been seen of a stem being cut across by the Coal & traceable into



connection with the Siguanaria
below! — I am now pre-
paring my 13th memoir for the
Royal Society. Subject, a new
species of Heterangium with
a Phloem element and
magnificent Phloem rays as
distinctly defined as in a
transverse section of a
twig of a Lime-tree. Beside
this the evidence becomes
strange & stranger that my
Fern, Rachipteris aspera
is really the twig & foliage of
my Lyginodendron. Old Samu-
el Dawson has got a deposit in
Germany in which Lyginodendron
& R. Aspera abound in the same
nodules and he has come
to the conclusion of their identity
wholly independent of my own

apiniger Here then we have
an Eocypnus Fern! And

I have just received a re-
markable Fern from Kidron
(a Sphenopteris) which bears
very strong evidence of being
identical with the stems of
my Heterangia.! What if
both these prove to be Ferns!

The fact is we have yet very
much to learn before we
fully understand how generalized
these Palaeozoic plants are
& hence how different in the
details of their inner organization
from their modern repre-
sentatives. -

Ever affectionately, Yrs

W. Williamson