

Riksmusei  
Botaniskt-Paleontologiska  
Afdelning.

Adress:  
Vetenskaps-Akademien, Stockholm.



Nathorst

July 30<sup>th</sup> - 1886

Dear Sir William,

I have been about to write  
to you many a time during  
these days in order to thank you  
for your kindly forwarding to  
me your interesting paper on the  
Fossil stirrings. But I have  
been waiting in order that I  
might be able to announce  
to you at the same time that  
I had sent you my new  
work in reply to Saporta. And  
so your kind letter did reach me  
this very day most conveniently  
indeed. For I had already  
wrapped the new work in

order to send it to Canada. But  
now I rewrite the address and  
send it with this letter to  
the Geol. Society. As for my  
former work I had imagined  
that I had sent it to you  
as soon it was published, but  
I must not have done it however  
now I will be happy to send you  
a copy within the very next days  
I cannot send it at once as  
I have no copy left, but I will  
soon get one from the editor  
It will be a great pleasure  
to me to be able to send a  
copy to you as I am thus  
repairing my negligence of not  
having sent it formerly. And  
as you will have seen from  
the work I have had a great

assistance from your most valuable observations.

In my new work I have been examining, if so to say, the mechanism of the trails and I have made my experiments with dead bodies in order to imitate the trails <sup>named</sup> ~~of~~ Curiana and Hadonia. As you will see the results obtained are most curious, and the phenomena are very puzzling as the casts of the trails thus produced show apparently inflexions, interlacements etc. when the ~~the~~ trails are crossing each other. Most interesting is the circumstance that all the reasons brought forwards to prove that Curiana is not a trail do in reality prove that it is such a

one. I hope that even Saporta will no more insist that Curiana and the other bodies mentioned should be plants. But Saporta seems not to have any knowledge of the Lyellian school of geology, <sup>which teach</sup> that the existing phenomena should be examined ~~at first~~ <sup>before</sup> in order to learn what has passed in the times of older periods, Saporta does not even seem to know the appearance of a common ripple-mark! -

I am most happy indeed that you will treat the subject at Birmingham. I am convinced that since the pseudozalgae have been rejected there will be found now and then true algae even in the older deposits. I think that it should be very profi-

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table for this  
question if there  
could be made

some new experiments with  
*Limulus* in addition to those  
already made by you. But  
I have no opportunity to make  
such. Perhaps you will find  
some opportunity at last. It  
would be convenient to have  
the animal moving on clay  
instead of on sand.

I shall be much thankful  
indeed if you can send me  
some specimens of Psilophyton  
when you are returning to  
England next time. For I am  
working with the ~~upper~~ de-  
vonian flora of Spitzbergen, where  
I have found specimens, which

possibly do belong to the  
plant mentioned. The speci-  
mens are not however good.

There occur great masses of  
dichotomously divided fragments  
in the red and green devonian  
sandstones and slates, but they  
are always most fragmentary  
and not determinable.

It is amongst these

fragments that some specimens  
occur, which seem possibly  
to belong to *Psilophyton*. -

I do not remember if you  
have got my "Contributions  
à la flore fossile du Japon".  
If not please only to tell  
a word and I will send it  
at once, since I have still  
a spare copy for you.

I should be glad to learn  
your present opinion as to  
*Prototaxites Lozani Dawson* =  
*Nematophycus Lozani Comtress*.

As you will see I have  
referred to it as being an  
alga showing the internal  
structure. Do you still believe  
that it is a coniferous plant,  
and if so, do you also mean  
that *Nematophycus Hicksii* is  
no alga? I should be very <sup>(a specimen)</sup> thankful for it.

I will send you also my  
paper on *Sphenothalpus*, which  
is certainly a ~~total~~ organism. It  
would have been most inter-  
esting indeed to have been  
able to visit the Association  
in Birmingham but I  
cannot leave the town this

number.

I remain, Dear Sir William,

Yours very truly

A. G. Watwood.