

66 Boulevard de l'Hotel Royal  
Paris  
le 19 Feb 1876

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I received a note from M. Benault the other day saying that he had received your letter & asking me how he could send you some pamphlets. I wrote in reply that I would call at the Jardin des Plantes to see him about it & which I did this afternoon. He said he would have them sent towards you as they does not live in Paris here. He showed me a number of specimens of stalks of ferns from the Carboniferous period & he has lately published a pamphlet. There was a Mr. Brownard (or some such name) who has been working up the subject of Carboniferous reeds, who has died quite lately. He showed me Benault showed me a large number of slices which he had made. He has one all silicified, & some of them are very



large, sometimes over two inches long. We have  
also a couple of cones of Sigillaria about three  
inches long one of which is sliced & shows the  
whole internal structure most beautifully.

In one of the casts there were some moulds  
or casts of flowers from the Eocene (I think).  
They were quite perfect showing the stamens &  
petals just as they had existed. He told me  
they were produced as follows:— the rock in  
which they are found is one of those porous  
"calcareous" which are so common here. The flowers  
occupy small cavities. The specimen is first  
thoroughly boiled in oil to drive out the air in  
pores & fill them with water. Then  
some carefully selected plaster of Paris and  
slay liquid is introduced so as to mingle  
with the water already in the cavity. After it  
has set, the whole is treated with layers of  
dilute acid which dissolves the stone leaving  
the cast in situ. Mr. Remant mentioned that he had  
sent you a couple of his pamphlets about  
4 months ago. I should be glad to let  
you know whether you received them.  
I understood from him also that Mr.  
M. Bronyard had published a pamphlet



on the subject of the seeds, which I was  
expecting to receive with the others. His work  
however is left in a very unfinished con-  
dition, but it is possible that M. Renault  
may take it up, as he has been helping  
him with it.

We have been having very mild weather  
this week with occasional rain. They have  
been commenced digging the Luxembourg  
gardens now & pruning the trees & shrubs.  
This morning it was beautifully fine and  
the air was perfectly clear a most rare  
phenomenon here in winter; I think I am  
right in saying that it is the first time  
it has been so since I moved here, as  
I certainly saw this morning distant  
parts of Paris from this neighborhood  
which I ~~never~~ do not remember ever  
to have seen before. The Seine has risen  
nearly a foot the last few days & it  
is predicted by the Weather authorities to  
attain its maximum of (I forget what)  
on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Our examination with Collignon came  
off on Thursday. On Wednesday after  
Alro & I had left Baron's lecture to  
await its announcement, the Secretary



Came up & said that he had made a mis-  
take & that it was to be on Thursday.

Abro 15	Delaroy 10
Dawson 14	Margosshoff 15
Kramer "	Mironesco 18
Lemaire 14	Switkowski 16

I am not particularly delighted with the result but I suppose I ought to be satisfied. He asked me quite an easy question but one which I had not thought of looking over, as it formed part of the operation of calculating a continuous pier which on which we had had a concours; & the professors seldom ask questions covered by the concours they give us.

His last lecture of the course was delivered on Friday (yesterday) so that now we have much less to do & in fact are comparatively free. We have before our concours for Baren, it consisting of the choice of a route for a road between two points on a contoured plan with the estimates of earth-work, price, & cost of repairs, etc. Kramer has been loafing for more than a month & he <sup>has</sup> intends to re-  
turn to Austria on account of their compulsory military system; he will study during the summer & try to enter the  
second year. } Yours affectionately Will Carr