

12<sup>th</sup> March 1874,

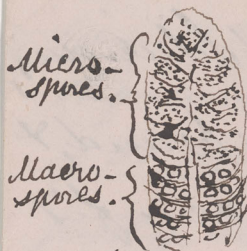
ROYAL BOTANICAL SOCIETY.

At the evening meeting of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh on the 12th inst.—Sir Walter Elliott in the chair—a paper was read by Mr C. W. Peach on a specimen of Megaphyton from Alfreton, presented by J. C. Lindsay, Esq., to the then Watt Museum, now the Free Museum at Dundee. It was marked as a Bothrodendron, but on examination proved to be not that genus, but Megaphyton, and probably *M. distans*, of Lindley & Hutton. Mr Peach fully described it, and gave reasons for his decision, illustrating his remarks with drawings and a cast made from the specimen. He then described a *Lepidodendron* found by him at Tillicoultry, showing that this variety was new to Scotland, and compared it with one described by Heer from Baren Island, named *Lepidodendron Veltheimianum* of Goeppert. Although with one exception they agreed, this difference, he considered, justified him in making it a variety, as *L. Veltheimianum* variety *reticulatum*. With drawings and specimen, he pointed out that the ornamentation on the outer part of the bark of his was a beautiful filagree work ~~interlacing~~ the leaf scales, thus showing these leaf scales widely separated. In Heer's they were contiguous, and this difference he considered so great as to fully warrant him in making it a variety. Although the variety is new, two specimens like the original *L. Veltheimianum* have been found by the Geological Survey officers in East Lothian and Fife coal fields. The variety occurred at Tillicoultry, and Mr D. Grieve, F.R.S.E., got it ~~also~~ in the railway cutting near Colinton. Mr Peach next noticed at some length a fine series of *Halonias*, from different places in Scotland, including one from Fife, in the Dundee Museum. He believed two species occurred, and that, although wide spread, they were by no means abundant. As well as this, he made several observations on *Lepidodendras*, and believed that one occurs in Scotland which has lately been found in Canada. However, he thought it best to wait until better specimens in both countries turned up. His next specimen was, he thought, new to Scotland, *Favularia nodosa* of Bowman, got by him in the splint coal at Falkirk. Mr Peach concluded by exhibiting a very small and beautiful cone got by Mr Hodge, of Pole Park Works, Dundee, from Midridge Colliery, Wemyss, (who kindly gave it to him) and stated that it differed from all he had seen, and that he was unable to find any such figured or described.

Mr Peach received the thanks of the Society.

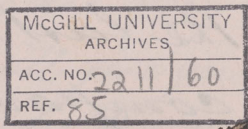
interlacing

Cone from Barnt Island.



Fear

30 Haddington Place,  
Edinburgh, 31. March 1874




My dear Sir,

"The way to good manner,  
is never too late," I learnt when at  
School, 60 Years ago! how easy said  
60 Years, but not easily told would  
be the history of that long time.

Now my dear Sir, I am not going to  
Sermonize, but to ask you to forgive  
my apparent neglect for your kindness  
in sending me, first, a copy of a  
paper of yours, & secondly, The Report  
of the Fossil Plants, of the Lower  
Carboniferous &c, formations of  
Canada; both are truly acceptable  
& I beg your acceptance of my best  
thanks for them. Your book

on the Plants of O. R. S. Silurian,  
I have got handsomely bound, &  
the last must be made a fit  
companion for it. You hardly  
can fancy how much I prize  
them. I think I sent you a paper  
with report of my retiring address to  
the Physical Society, in which you will  
see what I had been doing. I send by  
same post with this, a Newspaper with  
a short report of my having found a  
specimen of Philophyton, in Lower  
Silurian rocks in Assynt, in what  
are called the Fucoid beds. You will <sup>got</sup>  
find in the same paper, that a member  
of the Geo. Soc. here (at least 2 members)  
have found <sup>land</sup> plants in the Upper  
Silurian, of the Peutland Hills. Those  
They are impressions only.

found by Mr. Henderson are a calamite,  
Stigmaria, & no doubt two "spore cases"  
of Pallophyton, () they are very  
pretty. The rough sketch will give you  
an idea of their size &c. Mr. Brown  
has got fine pieces of the Rhizoma  
of the same plant from the Pentland  
<sup>in Upper Silurian rocks,</sup>  
also, & thus, it is hoped they will  
work out the fossil flora so long  
hid there. These discoveries have  
delighted me, for I have long been  
of opinion that Land plants existed  
in Silurian times, having <sup>in</sup> my possession  
years ago, the specimens I have just  
described at the Physical Society. They  
have been shown to many & always  
till now, poor! poor!! & so I kept quiet  
I shall hold my tongue no longer; Your  
discoveries <sup>have</sup> made me bolder.

I am of opinion that we have your Lepidodendron corrugatum in our rocks near Edinb. Ours have magnificent cones attached to the slender stems, they are graceful indeed & rather rare. In many respects the stem & branches agree with yours. We have also at Musselburgh, lots of Calamites associated with C. nodosus so much like your C. undulatus that I am quite inclined to name it so; I however must try to get more specimens before I do so. I have seen it also at Falkirk. I was not well the winter before last but able to busy myself with making sections (with hammer & rubbing stones) of some of the Burnt Island stuff, & the Craigcith trees, & did very well. In the Burnt Island stuff I got lying side by side, two cones with Microspores on the upper part & Macrospores below - They showed well under the microscope. Mr Carnegy has them & I am getting impatient to hear his opinion about them. They are really beauties. It is I hope excusable if I am a little impatient for I am 74 & can't afford to wait - I am like a child - second bairnhood - but so thankful that I am permitted to enjoy myself - with the exception of hearing - I am almost as young as ever - so I ought to be grateful. I am. If there is any thing that I could send you I should be very glad if in my power to do so - at any time I shall be glad to hear from you. With warmest best regards I am ever obliged & faithfully yours,  
Micheal Dawson  
Montreal. Chas. W. R. K. 5

Excuse the  $\frac{1}{2}$  sheet I dare  
not trouble you with <sup>2<sup>nd</sup></sup> April 1874. 2  
Yours.

P.S. I am like the ladies  
resolved to have a postscript -  
After writing the other part - I sat  
down to think about it, & have  
resolved to say a little about them.  
You may rest quite satisfied that  
the plant that I got in Abyssinia was  
in lower Silurian rocks - confirmed  
on the spot by the late Sir R. Murchison,  
when I was with him. I feel certain  
that the plant is Psilophyton Insofar  
I feel pretty certain. As regards the  
plants of Messrs Brown & Henderson  
I believe them to be as mentioned.  
The locality & horizon I say nothing  
about, never having been to the spot &  
so I must hesitate before I say  
positively & accept their report,

I mention this so that you may  
look at their information with caution,  
if I possibly can I must see for myself,  
One thing about the plants is certain,  
whether <sup>they</sup> were got in Silurian, Old Red  
sandstone, or Carboniferous (all these  
lie near together) they are new to the  
Pentland hills, so good work has  
been done & great credit is due to the  
two Gents who have laboured so hard  
& well in the difficult places they  
have worked in. I quite expect  
a good harvest will be reaped there.

We have had a very fine winter.

For the last few days terrific gales  
with hail rain & snow in lashing  
showers & very cold - hardly "April  
showers" to bring forth May flowers.

Wm. Feach