

Columbus O March 30th 76

Leopoldus

Prof. J. W. Dawson, Montreal.

My dear Sir.

Your favor of the 23rd is just received through the Smithsonian Institution. If you have the kindness to direct here your letters to me they will be received sooner.

I am indeed very glad to be able to state to you that the matter in regard to *Semina scutata* Daws. has been already rectified as you will see in the Annual Report of D Hayden which is out of the printer now and will be distributed, I think, in a few days. As the fossil plants obtained by D Hayden and others from Point of rocks were very important in regard to the question of the age of the Aquatic, I had to prepare at a short notice a preliminary description of those plants and this was done hastily with the positive understanding that I should modify my views and names if this was

demande~~d~~ by the detailed examination
which was to be made of the specimens. If
the organisms which you figured and descri-
bed as *Semna* are, as it appears by the
numerous specimens of Prof. Hayden the same
as those which are now described as *Fistia*
wrayana, it is evident that they are not
referable to *Semna*. But they may differ and
I have therefore described or named *Semna*
scutata Daws. The globular form which is represen-
ted upon the specimens, from Point of Rocks quite
as frequently as the other obovate leaves evidently
representing *Fistia*. Describing a plant identical
with yours in character, I had no right to change
the name and I recognized ^{also} that I had not any
right to decide about your own specification. The
Bulletin has not any importance as authority
of species and indeed I do not consider as an
authority any description of fossil species without
a satisfactory representation by figures. The plate
which represents the plant in question is engraved as
also all the plates of the flora of the Devonian. 65 in
number

If you wish to see their different forms, I will gladly send you a spare copy though I hope to have the whole all ready to be published next July. I have also a good small plate (drawings) of the Devonian plants from the Lower Helderberg of Michigan. I do not know when I may find time for publishing them. I may send you also this small plate if you desire it.

I have many specimens of fossil woods and can procure you more from my correspondents of the West. Do you want only Devonian or Carboniferous wood? or will you also determine Cretaceous and tertiary specimens. Of these shall be the most. All at your service. About two years ago Prof. Cox of the Indiana Geol. Survey sent me a most beautiful specimen of Coniferous wood Maucayylon, with the outside striated like a Calamite. A young man here undertook to prepare for me thin lamellae for microscopical examination and I gave him for comparison all my best specimens of Devonian Wood. The use of the microscope has become impossible on account of my enfeebled sight and I should be glad

to send you all these specimens, excepting
however those of Indiana which do not belong
to me. I will consult Prof. Coe about them.
I believe however that he intends preserving
them for a future paleontological volume of
his reports. The young man is here, and I
will try to see him soon and to get my
specimens. Please to say how I may send them.
In the meanwhile you will receive with this
by mail four specimens sent to me at different
times, but lately, by Dr. Engelman of St. Louis.
They were found by Prof. Broadhead formerly
State Geologist of Missouri. I will advise these
Gent. that I sent to you the specimens and
request them to send you more if they have.
The discovery of the specimens should be credited
I think to Prof. Broadhead; the communica-
tion however is by Dr. Engelman. - Do you
take the fern also? My collection of Carboniferous
plants in the Museum Cong. Geol. of Cambridge has
a large amount of silicified trunks mostly ferns
Trionites, Rhizomites, &c. &c. in an admirable
state of preservation varying in size from a few inches
to more than two feet diameter. With enough for years
I suppose that the museum would gladly lend
them to you.

Respectfully yours
L. Sargen