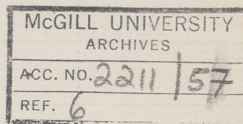


Chapman
Oct 14/94

Toronto: Oct. 5th 1894



Dear Professor Dawson,

I have just received your postal-card and the copy of your article on "Impressions and Footprints of Aquatic Animals &c". For the latter, pray, accept my best thanks.

When I drew up my paper on the Protichnites and Climactichnites impressions I was of course aware that these impressions were regarded by you (as by most other observers) as animal tracks; and I also remembered that you had published some remarks on the resemblance of the tracks of the modern Limulus to the Protichnites impressions, although at the time I could not lay my hand upon the article. It was not necessary for me, however, to refer to your publication, as I did not contrast this resemblance, in any way, and I had no wish to appear to criticize your statements; my sole object being to record my own opinion, and to point out what I considered, and must still consider, as serious

Ms. A. 9. 2. 1871

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Dear Professor Chapman,

I have just received your letter and the copy of your article in 'Impressions and Impressions of Impressions' in the 'Quarterly' for the latter part of the year. I have read it with much interest and I am glad to hear that you have published your article in the 'Quarterly'. I have not seen the article but I have no doubt that it will be very interesting. I have no objection to your publishing it in the 'Quarterly' and I have no objection to your publishing it in the 'Quarterly'. I have no objection to your publishing it in the 'Quarterly' and I have no objection to your publishing it in the 'Quarterly'.

objections to the track theory generally. My opinion, of course, I am perfectly prepared to recognize, may be of little value as concerns the actual nature of these impressions; but the objections, which I have ventured to bring forward, to the assumption of their track origin, cannot, I think, be readily explained away.

I have, myself, on two separate occasions examined closely the trails of the king crab or limulus, and these trails (although presenting naturally points of resemblance to the Protichnites markings) had nothing in common with the Chimaetichnites impressions. The resemblance of the latter to certain sea weed impressions, on the other hand, is undeniable; and whilst there are strong objections to their being regarded as animal tracks, I cannot see what there is to militate against the view of their fucoidal origin.

Regretting that I am thus forced to differ from you, I remain

Very truly yours

Edw. J. Chapman

D. Dawson
c. c. c.

Principal of McGill University, Montreal.