

UNIONTOWN FAYETTE COUNTY, PENN. SEPT. 17 1879

DR. J. W. DAWSON,

MY DEAR SIR,

TO ME FROM NEW YORK.

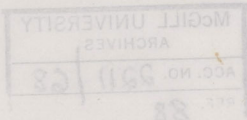
I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER, WHICH WAS FORWARDED

I HAVE JUST WRITTEN TO DR. BIGSBY, REFERRING HIM TO PROF. FONTAINE, WHO, IN CONJUNCTION WITH PROF. WHITE, HAS PREPARED AN ELABORATE WORK ON THE PLANTS. I STUMBLED ON THE HORIZON IN 1870 WHILE AT MORGANTOWN BUT KNOWING NOTHING ABOUT FOSSIL BOTANY I DID NOTHING. FONTAINE SUCCEEDED ME AND COLLECTED LARGELY. HE AND WHITE HAVE PREPARED A WORK WITH 25 4TO. PLATES WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED SOMEDAY BY THE PENN. GEOL. SURVEY.

I WISH THAT THE PALAEO-BOTANISTS COULD FIND SOME WAY TO STOP THE DISCUSSION RESPECTING THE AGE OF THE LARAMIE COAL-BEDS. MY WORK DURING THE PAST TWO SEASONS LEAVES NO CHANCE FOR ME TO DO OTHER THAN TO REGARD THEM AS FOX HILLS THROUGHOUT, IN SO FAR AS SOUTHERN COLORADO AND NORTHERN NEW MEXICO ARE CONCERNED. CRETACEOUS FOSSILS GO RIGHT UP, AND AT ONE LOCALITY I WAS MEASURING FORT PIERRE IN MY SECTION WHEN TO MY ASTONISHMENT I FOUND THAT I HAD INCLUDED NEARLY 200 FEET OF LARAMIE. IF THE COAL BED WERE ABSENT FROM THE GASTERO REGION, NO BODY WOULD DOUBT FOR A MOMENT THAT THE WHOLE SERIES IS MIDDLE CRETACEOUS, UNLESS INDEED HE SHOULD STUMBLE ON SOME OF THE PLANT IMPRESSIONS.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

J. J. Stevenson



Stenogram

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Oct 17/79

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