

BOSTON, MASS., Feb. 12 1887.

Dear Sir William:

I received the fossil coral which you sent me, and have examined it with great profit. The mode of growth certainly has considerable resemblance to that of *Beatrice*, but there are, as you know better than I perhaps, distinctions that remain still puzzling;— one especially for me is the continuity of the external layers or outside of *Beatrice*, as compared with that of any of the coniform corals which I know. The extreme regularity and form of *Beatrice* are certainly a very important point in its structure. The irregularities of *Beatrice*

seem to be due rather to the compressible nature of the fossil than to any other cause. I was aware that the ends of *Beatrix* were more or less jointed, but I believe I have never been able to see that the joint was covered by the epitheca. The swollen character of the end appears to indicate a very different style of growth in the young from what it had afterwards, and my supposition has always been, since I first saw the swollen ends at Ottawa, that it was very likely an animal that lived buried in the mud, and the swollen end was used to fasten it in its burrow. Nevertheless I do not feel at all sure

about any of the affinities of this
singular fossil. I shall be
very glad to hear about the
coral when you come to a de-
termination, since I have a
large number of such forms
from the Trenton of Newfoundland.

Yours cordially

Alpheus Hyatt,

W. B.

Dictated.

Hyatt
July 187

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all ~~intimate~~
pieces