

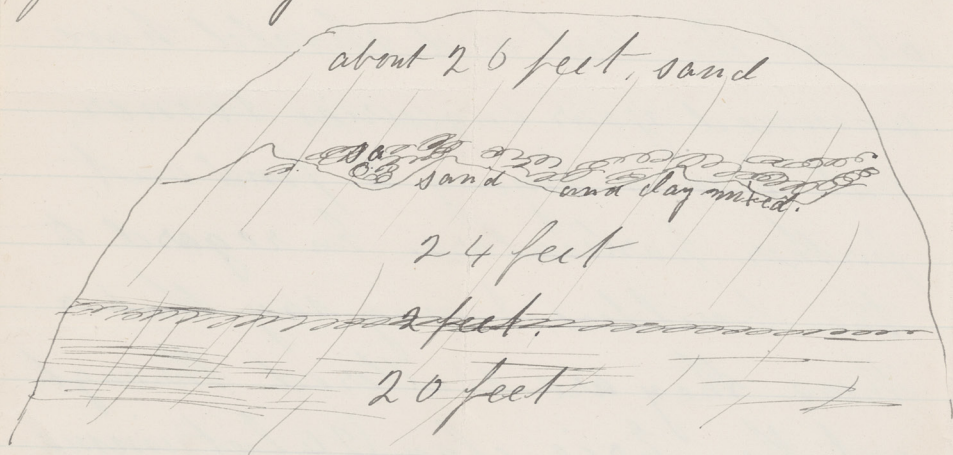
Toronto, March 18th, 1890.

To Sir Wm. Dawson, M.A., L.L.D., F.R.S.,
C.M.Z., etc.,

Dear Sir,

I received your communications about the leaf, and should have answered your enquiries sooner, but I was trying to find out further particulars. In regard to the boulders, I may say that there they are scattered throughout the Erie clay, (24 feet,) immediately overlying thin bed of sand and clay in which the leaf was found, and also quite a number in the surface beds of sand. A peculiarity about the ~~position~~ position of the sand or surface beds, (about 25 feet) was shown admirably when the slope of the cutting was just finished, and for a short

time afterwards, ^{this} was the ap-
parent abrading, or denudation,
of the surface of the clay bed
which was something like the
following:



Professor J. W. Spencer, of Georgia,
noticed the above peculiarities, and
he also got some wood, and two
small fragments of ~~leaves~~ leaves that
I found while we were looking
over the bank, and which was being
finished at the time. I intended
to have seen Prof Spencer, who
was in Toronto about three weeks

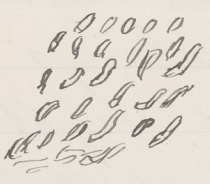
ago, but he came a few days ahead
of the time I was informed he
would be here, and went away
next morning, for Europe, so
that I did not see him. I found
the leaf you received about a
week after finding the fragments
that Prof. Spencer took. I do
not think any other leaves were
found. I looked for several
weeks myself, almost every
evening for an hour or so, as the
days were long at the time, and
several Saturday afternoons. But
there is ~~an~~ a very large exposure
of similar clay beds, etc., about
~~seven~~^{six} miles east of the Don, on
the shore of Lake Ontario, to a
depth of several hundred feet.

I have only been at this place
once, and that was in 1886. I would

have gone again last fall, but it would be very difficult to make much out, except in fine dry weather, as it is very difficult going up the bank at any other time. Prof. Spencer was examining these high banks after I saw him. When I saw the banks, I was wondering whether the lower beds contained any wood or leaves. I intend visiting the place again shortly. These high banks, (Scarboro heights) are noticed by Sir Wm. Logan (1863), and the debris of these banks are believed to be found in the Island in front of the city.

I did not get anything of very special interest on my trip to Elora, last fall. I found one specimen on the Credit River at Cataract, about 43 miles from

Toronto, which I think is rather interesting, that is if it is a fucoid, (Clinton) as I believe it to be, but some specimens of rain-drops are something similar, yet I think there is a difference. The specimen is marked something after this style:



some spots almost round and others long, but all sloping one way. I showed it

to B. E. Walker, Esq., Manager of the Bank of Commerce here, and who takes quite an interest in fossils, and has a fine collection, the finest ones being from the United States. He thinks the markings are rain drops. I remembered that I had seen similar markings in the Hudson River formation, at Minico, about six miles west of Yonge Street here. I went out there about a month before Christmas,

one fine day, but a little snow in shady places at the time, and found the place, but the bed in which they were, was all torn up and piled in a heap for building stone, and likely built up before now in the city. The markings were almost identical, but slightly worn off with the wash of the creek.

I noticed when coming back from Mimico, along the edge of Lake Ontario, between the Humber River and Parkdale, a fine display of ripple marks, or waves, in the sand for about half a mile along the beach, and from one to three feet below the surface of the water, the water being quite smooth and calm at the time. It was exceedingly interesting to me, as

showing how ripple marks are formed, as these markings are ~~are~~ almost abundant in the Hudson River, and sometimes in the Clinton Formation.

It was a sad calamity, the burning of the University, and the destruction of the Library and museum, but very liberal aid is being given to restore the library, as far as possible. I felt sorry for Sir Daniel Wilson, as I understand he lost a collection of archaeological specimens which he had at the University, and some of which he showed us at the Canadian Institute one evening.

I would be much pleased if you could kindly send me name of publication in which Prof. Nicholson named the Stromatopora, as I forgot the name you mentioned, and

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had not marked it down.

Hoping you will excuse delay
in answering sooner, and wishing
you every success, ~~and~~

I remain, yours sincerely,

J. Townsend,
691 Ontario St.