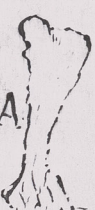





To J. W. Dawson Esq

Boston Sept 22. 1852.

My dear Sir

On my arrival at Boston I lost no time in showing the Joggins fossil bones to Prof. Agassiz who declared 1st that he had never seen the species or any thing near it before, he presumed from the matrix that it was Carboniferous (I had only told him that it was American) & the great point was to determine whether the creature was "reptilian" or "fish". I had then only unpacked the principal jaw, & the bone  which we thought might be a humerus. He said he inclined to think the jaw judging  by the shape of the condyle might be ichthyic, rather than reptilian. I asked what then could the bone A be in a fish. He said the Hyoid bone as in *Lepidotis*, tho it was different in this case, in form.

Afterwards I showed every specimen to Wyman & he has them all at Cambridge now in his Museum of Comparative Anatomy. At first he pointed out several reptilian characters but the scale-like (Opercula?) pieces which you remember radiated somewhat  from a centre staggered him much, &  made him incline to the ichthyic view of the matter. He was to show these, & some other important pieces which Agassiz had not yet seen, to the ^{first} ichthyologist last night, & I expect to hear the result before I post this.

Agassiz told me he had not been shown the Albert ^{Copy} fish. I hope to get him to name for you ^{two} or ^{three} specimens, which Sir Edmund Head gave me. But Agassiz besides numerous lectures, has on hand a great work on embryological palaeontology & it is not easy, nor hardly fair to task him.

I have

