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My dear Dr Dawson

A few days ago, in supervising Richardson's Report on the Coal rocks of Queen Charlotte Island, and in examining with him his specimens from the carbonaceous argillite, from which the Indians obtain the maps they carve into various grotesque images, I saw there was a greenish white mineral filling small cracks in the rock, and various interstices in the plants the rock contains. It appeared to me to be probably of a magnesian character and I therefore gave a specimen of it to Mr Hoffman for analysis. He says after analysis that it is a <u>Serpentine</u>.

Some of the plants in which it is present have been quite closely shut up & isolated in the rock, and the only way in which the serpentine could become present in the position it occupies, it appears to me must be by infiltration. Mr Richardson informs me that not a single plant he has seen in this black

argillite but holds some of it. It undoubtedly fills cracks in the carbon of the plants, and may also fill the cells of the structure. Mr Weston is busy preparing slices for microscopic examination. You will see how this bears upon the presence of serpentine in the cells & pores of Eozoon.

Yours truly
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