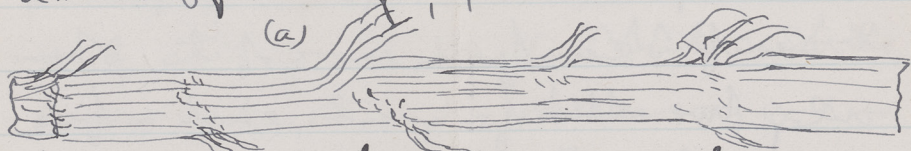


Parker

Albaca N.S. May 10th 179

Principal Dawson: Your explanations of fossil plants seem to me very strange. But I will not say but that they are correct. The specimen you call Boar-minus, that I sent you, was as I said, about 8 ft long, with branches at



of it; and the longitudinal striae ran into the branches, whose number I have forgotten but probably 8 or 10 in each. The specimen had been broken into fragments when I first saw it. The longest piece left when I saw it was about 16 inches or so long, ^{perhaps 17 or 18} and had a large branch some 2 1/2 inches wide as at (a). The striae ran unbroken into the branches. The specimen was about 6 inches wide; and the fragments are left, but a few inches, 4 to 6 ^{inches} long. Some transverse markings at the branching. No transverse markings like your fig. 56 Pl. VII. but plain uniform stem. It was

and the lower are long longitudinal striae. But all these may not extend far Parker ch. 2

coated with ^{bituminous} anthracite $1/4$ to $1/2$ inch
thick outside of the core, as the speci-
men I sent you will show. The cast of
the outside coal I did not ^{think} to
preserve, ^{which would have been the outer bark} that must show what you
call the aerial roots. It was pro-
bably the largest and best specimen
when first uncovered ever found in this
vicinity. I will go to the quarry
& see if I can find more of it. I have
only two other fragments, each a few
inches long. Perhaps Pickering the quarry was too soon.
I will try and loan to you certain
specimens for your examination.

The specimen I first sent occurs, not
in any one bed alone, or layer of rock,
as you seem to suggest, but through several
hundred feet of both Postage and Cheung
groups - or at least fragments of fronds
or parts of ~~the~~ ^a plant, so nearly alike that
only an expert like you can tell the
difference. I went last Monday
to Rail Road cutting a mile and
a half down the Cayuga Lake (east shore)
and found a dozen specimens. Now as the

line of junction of Potage and Chemung, near the
lake level, is at Hall Brook & thence; and this
is two miles and a half north, the elevation of the
layer or bed of specimens, & dip of rock would
make the layer 100 ft or more below the junction
of Potage & Chemung. The specimens I first
mailed you was 3 to 400 ft above the line of
junction.

There are no fern tree stumps erect
or in any shape, nor any clear fern tree marks
ing as in your figs 13, 15-26, 8, 7, 8, 13

XII, XIII, XIV. But the markings

outside the coal (bark) are more like

figs. 31^a, & c Pl. XIV. That is striae,

longitudinal to the specimen, and no

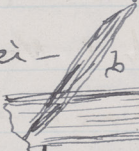
diagonal markings. Some of it are in

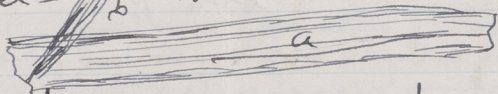
some places, & diffused fragments are

very common. We have always

regarded it as a sea

coal, and not a land

is a speci-  men in a sidewalk block



to the star figure (a) large piece, concave

about two feet long and three inches

broad. It is the ^{east of the} outer bark. (b) a

small piece about one inch wide and

ten inches long. ^{balley across the piece of bark, not} a ^{branch,} piece in sidewalk in

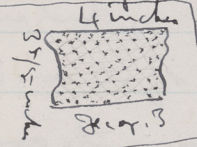
front of the Farmers House. You see
that if we had money to buy these sidewalk

specimens. They could be kept in the linear to diagonal stripes - no crop or diagonal marks. Since writing the above shows come across a specimen in my cabinet. It is eight inches long and $4\frac{3}{4}$ wide. Oval ^{Fig. 1} thus. That is $4\frac{3}{4}$ wide $1\frac{7}{8}$ thick and

has lines of plant cleavage that go into the specimen towards the center. ^{Fig. 2} 8 inches long

There are about twenty of the longitudinal stripes, all of which penetrate as shown in Fig. 1. This I have always considered the same plant as the first and largest well specimen outcrop.

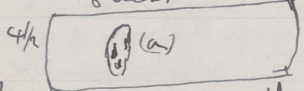
Perhaps this you would call a fern tree. But I see no fern markings on it. It is the outside of the coal (Intumenesc.) that is on it. It is Chemung. Another specimen shows, is 4 inches by $3\frac{7}{8}$ and has markings like a fern tree. It has the quincunx arrangement, that is indentations in true lines



lengthways and diagonally. On one side it has a bark and coal the $1/32$ inch thick, over what is seen in Fig. 3, and the indentations are left marked. Another little specimen is also oval

thus in section and has crop marks, then with broad indentations set obliquely, as I indicate to. These broad indentations

are very broad large for the specimen. There are about fifty of the crop markings. I have but in the few sketch only 18 crop markings. There are 17 of the broad markings on each side of the specimen 34 or 6 in all. These two last specimens may be fern trees. My plant specimens are comparatively few, and show kept only the better and more singular forms, and only of late attempted their study. In turning over my duplicates this morning (Monday May 12th of 1880) slab 8 in by $4\frac{1}{2}$ covered with pieces of bark, one of which has



Three indentations that are perhaps broad or leaf indentations or is a broad with these indentations (a) in large drawing in the piece of bark (a x) shows an enlarged view with the indentations. The edge of the yellow is sharp, and turned up as if a leaf. Black dots are the indentations

