

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Washington, D.C. March 12, 1891.

Sir J. Wm. Dawson,
Principal McGill College,
Montreal, Canada,

My dear Sir; —

Your letter giving your views in reference to the geological position of the Catskill group reached me in due time and I wish to thank you for your kindness in writing me so valuable a letter. It is so relevant to the subject that I am intending to give it in full in my paper.

To night I am going to send by mail, to your address, a small box containing five specimens of fossil plants. If you can find time to look them over I will be very grateful to you for the favor.

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Specimen No. 1 is from near Mound, Orange Co., N. Y., from rocks that contain only fossil plants; but are usually considered as of Middle or Upper Devonian age. Specimens from this quarry have been identified by Dr. Kennerly as Psilophyton princeps.

The other four specimens are from Kaaterskill Cove, above Palenville, Greene Co. N. Y. & on the Eastern side of the Catskills. Stratigraphically they are considerably higher than beds containing Holoptychius bones & scales and are in rocks that Prof. Hall regards as of Catskill age. Specimens 2, 3 & 4 are fair samples of the specimens fossil stems that were found at this locality. I have compared them with your figures & description of P. princeps; but, we have no specimens of the species & I have never had

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the opportunity of studying any authentic specimens of the species. One specimen No. 5^{fract I} is the termination of a frond, showing the mode of branching beautifully. Stem No II on the same slab is quite similar to those on the other specimens, except that it has opposite branches and in that character suggests Rhodia pinnata.

When you return these specimens could you send me specimens that would be authentic for the species of Psilophyton? I could then send you in exchange specimens of the U.S. Geol. Surv. Collections.

I will inclose a label that may be used in marking the box for return; and please return by express, not prepaying charges.

I am sorry to give you so much trouble & trust that I may be able to do something for you in the future,
Yours very sincerely,
Charles S. Prosser.