

Cambridge Mass.

Mr. J. W. Dawson.

May 2, 1881

Hager

Dear Sir,

I received your kind favor April 28,
and in consequence of it, I have
examined again the question about
the fern, and have given a great
attention to it. I remark that the
specimen is not more in my hand,
and as I am not botanist, it would
not be of consequence to ask again
for the permission of a reiterated
examination. Before writing
my paper I had closely examined
the papers quoted by you & v.
the Report of 1871 - the Devonian
plants of 1871 - the fossil plants 1873 -
the Canadian Geology Ed. II, and several
others. Precisely because I found
not there the question solved in a
way, which I was able to understand,
I applied to my old and very dear
friend Mr. Lesquereux for information.

After having now carefully read your letter, and after having compared the papers quoted in the letter, I confess that I see the gap, which is rather important, not filled at all.

You speak of the specimen as an "obscure fragment" but it is the end of a leaf several inches long in splendid condition, and very fit for a determination.

You say "the fern referred to is no doubt *Hart's Pteropteris serrulata*!"

This species *P. serrulata* is not mentioned in your Note in Soudley's paper as occurring in plastered No. 4 (containing *Platophumera*) nor in the other seven beds. It is not mentioned in Acad. Geol. p. 521.

Comparing the figures pl. XVIII f. 207. 8. 9. I am perfectly sure, that the fern of the slab belongs not to this species, if the figures are right.

Nor can I find among all the figures

of the 20 plates one, which I could identify as belonging to the fern on the slab. Of course I speak by memory, but I have the nervation of the fern examined very closely, and believe therefore not to be mistaken.

After having received Mr. Lesquerend's letter, I compared his figure pl. XLIV f. 4 and 4. a., and found it rather similar or at least nearly related to the fern of the slab - always repeating the restriction

"as far as a Non-botanist has a right to emit such a conclusion."

Therefore I deemed it only just, not to give my own opinion, but to apply to whom it concerns and who is capable to solve the question.

If you will be so kind to look again through the

passages of my paper, I think
you will agree, that this is
just the gist of them. The
question has to be solved by
Palaeobotanist, and as I do not
belong to them, I can not do
anything more.

Truly Yours

Dr. H. A. Hagen.