

Read  
Mary Anne

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	1463
REF.	169

Allan House

Blauvelt.

12<sup>th</sup> July 1892.

Dear Sir

Your letter and the papers you have so kindly sent me duly to hand. These latter have enabled me to fulfill all pledges, for which I cannot sufficiently thank you.

I note your remarks as regards *Lepterothyrium*, - and by and by shall have pleasure in forwarding the Slab in my possession, but before doing so, would like to await news from Ingham, and I should also wish to have another look of the *Lepidodermis* less in Caithness. What anything new known may be procured, is another thing - 200 years ago I had a search for *L. Milleri*, in the spot where it was found. (Selkirk Bay near Stone O. Shoals), but with the exception of some bits of pyritised pseudo-woolfs, nothing else rewarded it.



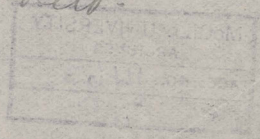
unknown sp. is a fascinating little  
thing, if a plant, it should w. be  
new, and probably of the "bulrush order,  
but its association with Pteris  
makes it (to me), somewhat doubtful.  
You had a specimen of it before.

The sporocaps of Marsilea Schreb.  
enclosed, and the "oval" leaf  
rather a striking resemblance to  
each other.

Again thanking you for so kindly  
sending so much a supply of papers,  
and for all other matters.

Believe me

Yours very truly  
James Bird.



Mr S. W. Dawson Esq. }  
Boston: }

The slab containing *Zosterophyllum*  
appears to show the plant in a rather way,  
than in Prof. Penhallow's figure. The strobili  
are obscure, the sporangium is sessile,  
though the fruit appears amongst the leaves,  
the latter are of two dimensions:

A number of other specimens I should  
like you and Prof. Penhallow to see; though  
some of them are obscure they are generally  
suggestive, and perhaps of interest.

So far as in I suggested that you  
might wish to retain his specimens, and now  
enclosed his reply. He refers to Cooper,  
which I know he has for long wished  
to possess a specimen, for microscopical  
examination. I know he would highly value it.  
On my own part my highest ambition would  
be to possess a perfect specimen of *Sclerophyton*,  
- stem, trunk & fruit -, but hitherto I have  
not ventured to mention it.

Wurfbach writes: "This paper is indeed



important addition to the Devonian  
flora, and our transatlantic friends  
deserve great credit for the care, and  
thoroughness they have brought to bear  
on the difficult subject.

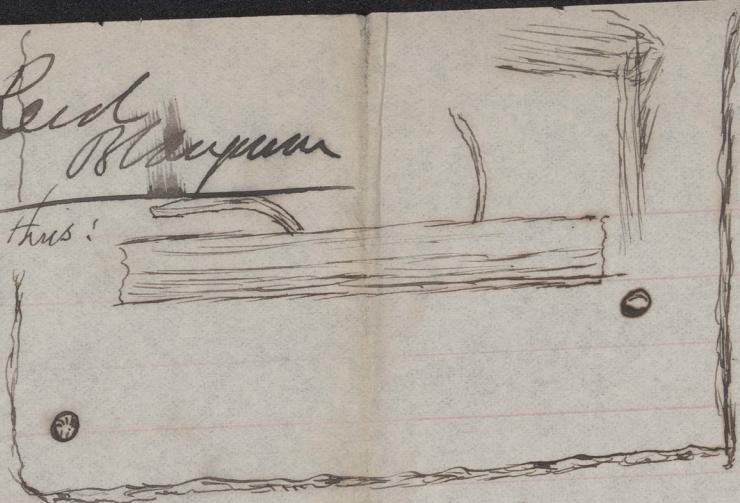
The following extract I think  
may be of interest. I have suspected  
for some time the idea as to the  
coming of the sporangia, as referred  
to formerly, but it is only now  
that I could with certainty  
say it was proved. as to the  
glaceta, from numerous specimens  
in my possession there can be  
just as little doubt of its  
correctness also. The suggestions  
in this connection however may or  
may not be correct, and are given  
for what they are worth.

The small



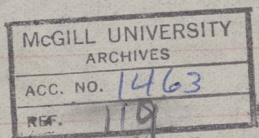
Reed  
Blayney

branch thus:



The trend of the branch is rather phragmo-like, or perhaps I should say suggestive of such in connection with the stem. The upright leaf attached and the fruit associated therewith would seem to point to its connection with Loxotrochylum.

Upon the slab containing Loxotrochylum (presently in your hands) a circular sporocarp probably of Parahedra occurs immediately underneath the plant, towards the left side of the slab, though distinct enough it is somewhat obscure.



J. Reid

P.S. I think the specimen of Parahedra much more closely resembles Plularia, than the above rough figure. I remember I took it for leaf-let of marales. The other figures though rough may illustrate my meaning. J.R.



Parha

mailela

Pilularia



Parha depressa sp. nov. var. B. minor, present the same oval form of spore case, and the same arrangement of sporangia as in mailela, and also (as (William Dawson) shows) stems and branches consisting of fertile stalks and branches bearing leaves.

Parha a media on the other hand presents a markedly different aspect - In its nearly circular spore case, its radiating structure - and in one specimen - similarly arranged sporangia? it much more closely resembles the globular spore case and quadrantal structure of Pilularia. In a word we may have in Parha as William Dawson suggests a generalised and exaggerated form of plant with the leaves of Pilularia, and <sup>with</sup> stems branches and fructification approaching to both Pilularia and mailela.

In corroboration of Prof. Penhallow's.

Lactophyllum, a small slab containing one of the mature fruits, has also on it a stem and

x in your hands.



covering the sporangia; thus proving  
a covering ~~or sporocarp~~ on one side  
at least, but this is not all. In no  
single case so far as I have seen, do  
we find a polygonal sessile sporangia,  
i.e. the sporangia proper, as distinguished  
from its cup. or inflexion, the  
polygonal form is entirely confined to  
probably rather contractile matter. In the  
sporangia proper we often find the  
rounded form, probably through pressure  
assuming an oval form, and occasionally  
on the margin of the cluster, an elongated  
oval or rhomboidal form but never a  
polygon. \*

10. (enclonid) puzzles, at first sight  
it would be supposed to be the normal  
convex form of the placenta, pressed into a  
concave form, and it may be so, but it  
is difficult to conceive any kind of  
pressure possible that did not leave more

\* but is perhaps the sporocarp of Parhelia  
construing Prof. Parhelia's measurement of the same.



traces of its presence, which alone  
affects the sporocarp, and not the  
adjacent parts, a film of carbonaceous  
matter, and apparently a disk, <sup>near its center,</sup> seems  
inferred of this. It being a pressed  
inward placenta.

But on the other hand, its apparent  
freedom from pressure, its symmetrical  
form, which it is difficult to conceive  
is possible under such circumstances (as pressure,  
seems to point to its possibility of being  
the lower part of the sporocarp, with  
the placenta absent, in this case  
from the disk markings, the placenta  
must have supported disks on both sides,  
the upper, and lower.

Another alternative occurs, viz. that it  
is the upper part of the sporocarp,  
covering the placenta, to which the  
apricais equally applies.

Shaw



P.S. Since the enclosed was written I  
have just finished an experiment made to  
ascertain the internal form of the sporocarp  
in *Mucicola* - The result is exact:-

The specimen is part of the opened  
sporocarp, and shows a ridge form.

In the enclosed papers, when referring  
to the placenta occurring at least in  
some of the forms of fan-shaped objects,  
I specially had in view others - some of  
which you possess, very distinctly ridged,  
and devoid of Paeba markings, these  
I consider similar to the enclosed sporocarp,  
the ridge in this case appears to run  
straight across the sporocarp, not so much  
a little wider, but is certainly any  
suggestion from in considering these other  
forms connected with Paeba. It



# Evening

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## PRIMEVAL LONDON. INTERESTING DISCOVERY OF ELEPHANTS' BONES.



A correspondent of the *Daily Graphic* gives the following interesting particulars on the recent discovery of animals' bones in London:—From time to time the spade of the navy brings to light, even in the very heart of London, the vestiges of a former world. An interesting assemblage of elephantine remains has recently been unearthed in the course of some diggings for deepening the main sewer in Endsleigh Street, close to Euston Square. Fortunately the discovery of the Endsleigh Street elephants attracted the attention of Dr Henry Hicks, of Hendon, one of the Secretaries of the Geological Society, and by his zeal they have been carefully preserved for palæontological study. The fossils are chiefly bones and tusks of the mammoth—an extinct elephant which roamed over the marshy tracts of the Thames valley at a time when the climate of the Great Ice Age had probably lost but little of its extreme rigour. Dr Hicks, in a letter to the *Times*, expresses his belief that the loamy soil in which these bones occurred, at a depth of more than 20 feet from the surface, represents a period so remote as to be included in the Glacial Epoch.

### THE DISCOVERIES IN ENDSLEIGH STREET.

In the excavations at Endsleigh Street two large tusks were found, one measuring at the thickest part nearly 2 feet in circumference, and suggesting a length of about 10 ft. The tusks of the mammoth are characterised not only by their size, but by their remarkable curvature; they describe a considerable arc, perhaps as much as three-quarters of a circle, and could not, therefore, have been used, like the tusks of existing elephants, for uprooting trees. Enormous numbers of mammoth tusks are obtained from Siberia, especially from the river Lena, and it is said that even now the numbers brought yearly into the market must represent more than a hundred individuals. This fossil ivory of Siberia has been known and valued commercially for more than two centuries, yet so abundant are the remains frozen in the tundras that the supply is still maintained.

Bones of the mammoth have long been known to occur in the deposits upon which London is built. The older antiquaries were content to regard these and other elephantine relics discovered in Britain as representing the elephants which the Romans are said to have brought into this country.

### WHAT OUR ANCESTORS THOUGHT OF MAMMOTH BONES.

In olden days, before comparative anatomy was studied, the huge leg bones of the mammoth were commonly mistaken for human bones, and probably gave rise to many of the stories about giants and Titans. Thus, we are told by Simon Majolus, in a work entitled "*Dierum Canicularium*," that, in 1171, a river-bank broke down in England, and exposed the bones of a giant 50 feet high! Dr E. B. Taylor tells the story of a number of elephantine bones having been discovered in a brickfield near London, where

upon it was suggested that they merely represented the remains of an animal which had died some time previously in Wombwell's menagerie. "And now," said the neighbours, "the scientific gentlemen have found it, and think they have got a primeval elephant!" There is no manner of doubt, however, that the elephants just discovered near Euston Square were not the inmates of a wild beast show; neither were they Roman importations for use in waging war with the Britons. They are, on the contrary, veritable fossil forms, true "primeval elephants," distinctly referable to the mammoth by the characters of their tusks and of their teeth. From both the Asiatic and the African elephant the mammoth differed in its tegumentary covering; it was furnished with a thick woolly coat of reddish or fawn colour, covered by lank, coarse hair, perhaps twelve inches long, of dark brown colour. The character of this shaggy coating suggests that the mammoth, unlike any living elephant, was fitted to endure great severity of climate.

### EVIDENCE OF THE SOIL.

According to Dr Hicks, the loamy earth in which the Endsleigh Street fossils occur is overlain by a deposit usually referred to the high-level gravels and brick-earths of the Thames Valley. But these gravels and loams are of pleistocene age, not much, if at all, later than the concluding stages of the glacial period. Hence the beds below, being older, are probably of true glacial age, if not, indeed, pre-glacial! Dr Hicks may thus find in London a confirmation of views which he has held with regard to the age of the deposits in certain caves of North Wales. It appears that the loam in which the Endsleigh Street fossils are found has been carefully examined by Mr Clement Reid, of the Geological Survey, who has made a special study of fossil seeds, and who has found in it the remains of about 20 species of plants, suggesting a marshy locality. We believe also that the fossil bones have been submitted to Mr E. T. Newton, the accomplished palæontologist, of the Geological Survey. A full account of the fossils and the section will be submitted by Dr Hicks at an early date to the Geological Society.

### LONDON IN THE GLACIAL AGE.

From this interesting discovery we may carry our imagination back to a time when the site of Euston Square was part of a wild tract of marshy land, trodden by the huge mammoth and other strange mammals which have long since vanished from the face of the earth. The Thames, though flowing practically in its present course, was then a river of larger volume and of more torrential character than at present. While the woolly-coated elephant was living in the Thames Valley, glaciers no doubt covered the Northern heights and possibly the whole of the North of Britain may have been enshrouded in a thick sheet of ice. Under these rigorous climatic conditions man seems to have existed as a rude savage, clad in skins, armed with weapons of stone and bone, living by hunting and fishing, and waging constant war against the wild animals with which he shared the occupancy of the old Thames Valley.



## STRANGE DISCOVERY IN LONDON

The Secretary of the Geological Society sends to the *Times* the announcement of a curious discovery which has been made in London. He writes:—

During some recent excavations in Endsleigh Street in connection with the deepening of the main sewer the workmen came upon the remains of a mammoth and other prehistoric animals at a depth of about 22 feet from the surface. In the central excavation, near the North end of the street, two large tusks of a mammoth were met with lying near together, along with other bones belonging to the same animal. A portion of one of these tusks was brought to the surface, and it was found to measure at its thickest part nearly 2 feet in circumference. The length of the complete tusks would probably be at least 9 feet or 10 feet. In another excavation on the West side of the street, at a distance of about 15 feet from the above mentioned, the lower jaw and other bones of a younger mammoth were discovered at about the same depth from the surface. It is evident that the animals must have died at the spot where the remains have now been found, and the dark loamy soil in which they were embedded has yielded on examination many seeds of contemporary plants. Mr Clement Reid, F.G.S., of the Geological Survey, to whom samples of the loam were submitted, has been able to determine the presence in it of about twenty species. These show that the land here at the time was of a marshy nature. Deposits usually classed with the high level gravel and brick earth of the Thames valley were found overlying the animal remains; hence the geological age during which the animals lived, in my opinion, must be included in what is known as the glacial period.



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