

Mem. from J. J. J. Allan to the Slaves.

To the Hon. Dawson Esq. Montreal.

I regret to trouble you again about specimens forwarded to you. Mr. Graham a year or two ago inquired if I could tell him when he might expect his specimens returned. He fully suggested the possibility of new material being sent, when all specimens could be returned together. This is not now probable and hence the present communication — Mr. Graham will speak for himself.

Certain exchanges took place, Fishes, *Crustacea* remains, plants &c on one side, plants, sponges, and literatures on the other, which I trust were mutually satisfactory.

Though I attach but little importance to the fancy prices which obtain in scientific circles here in connection with these Caithness fishes, I may give one or two examples: Dr. Swainson reported recently the sale of a Cocosteus by a Caithness collector at £6.00. On another occasion I was shown a British Museum return of £4.00 for a few plates of *Homosteus (asterolepis)*. I also know of other small ones having been sold at prices ranging from 5s. to half a guinea each, and of some larger ones at £5. each.

On the other hand the beautiful specimens you so kindly sent me, I value very highly indeed.

I was in the habit of forwarding letters and specimens
through you, to assist in throwing light upon the
enquiries in hand. Of these I possess no representations
of Seed bodies, Small Sporangia, Zostera phyllon, Sporodictia hillii,
L. pedis, Prokattus, &c. - If I mistake not slides and
Parks disks were forwarded for the purposes of the latter.

In one of the last notes received from Prof. Peckham
he proposed to retain specimens, I scarcely think however
this was acceded to. He also referred to a fruit?
retained for further examination - This is now some
time ago. Sporodictia hillii and the large stem
5 cm broad and 75 cm in length, I did not intend
to part with. I would therefore wish to see again
those specimens referred to in the enclosed list, though
some of them may be of but trifling importance.

If your opinion from the phycocarpian view of
Parks is correct, this undoubtedly affects the
literature of the subject.