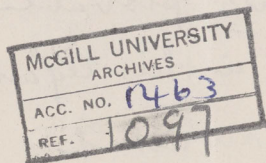


and thank fully received.

Very sincerely yours,

J. M. Duncan.



Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island,
Aug. 5th, 1899.

Sir J. W. Dawson.

Dear Sir, - You will please excuse me for the liberty I take in addressing you. My only apology for writing to you is that I have a mineral specimen whose history I would wish to learn. Your opinion or statements of facts will be highly appreciated. The case is as follows, -

Last March my brother-in-law, William Gillis of Orwell, went to the woods to cut his year's firewood. One of the trees cut down was about fifteen inches in diameter. Whilst cutting off the second single length - some twenty or twenty-two feet from the stump - his axe struck against something ~~was~~ usually hard at the center of the tree. He cut around it and drew it out.

The piece was about fourteen inches in length. The tree was perfectly sound throughout, excepting that the heart had decayed and fallen out, but was sound immediately above where this piece was found. I obtained a piece of it and I soon saw that it was petrified wood. I shewed it to Mr.

Barley of New Brunswick University, Fredericton, who said there was no question as to its being petrified wood, but he expressed no further opinion.

Testimony as to the truth of the statements made above can be given ~~made~~ on oath by Mr. Gillis if need be. The question I wish to propose is - What is its probable history? Your views in this regard will be anxiously awaited