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Tioga Railroad Company,

OFFICE OF H. D. V. PRATT,
ASSISTANT PRESIDENT.

Elmira, N. Y. Oct 28th 1877

Prof Marsh,

Dear Sir,

I have just received information from the Gen. Manager of our mines that they have succeeded in bringing a fossil tree-stump, safely from the mines. I was informed of its discovery some weeks ago and have been patiently awaiting the result. It is 26 inches in diameter and the roots extend out 2 or 3ft on each side. Thus making it 7 or 8ft in diameter at the base. The Gen. Manager of the Mines Mr S B Elliott, a fine geologist, says that it is the most wonderful

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fossil that he has ever met with. It far surpasses the fossil tree-stumps on exhibition in the Government Building at the Centennial. It is a *Sigillaria*. And on the underside of the fire clay, to which the stump is attached, is the finest impression of a *Lepidodendron* (14 inches in diameter) that I have ever seen. The Smithsonian Institute has been trying its utmost to purchase the fossil but I wish to give it to the Sheffield Scientific School for the Peabody Museum. The fossil will weigh about one ton. As I have been to considerable expense already in excavating it & transportation, I do not feel able to pay the freight

13897

Tioga Railroad Company,

OFFICE OF H. D. V. PRATT,
ASSISTANT PRESIDENT.

Elmira, N. Y. 187

on it from Elmira to New Haven.
I just dropped Prof. Brush
a note inquiring if he could
make arrangements with the
RR Companies for its free
transportation over the Erie
and other RR. The stump was
found 229 ft from the surface
and in the lower vein of coal.

I did not know whether to
address you or Prof. Brush in
relation to transportation so
I have written to both. Please
excuse this liberty -

Very Respectfully
Millard V. Pratt

'77 S.S.S.

GENERAL MANAGER'S OFFICE OF

The Blossburg Coal Company.

Elmira ^{N.Y.}
~~Arnot, Pa.~~, Oct 31st 1877

1050

Prof. A. E. Verrill.

My dear Sir,

Last term I spoke to you concerning a tree-stump fossil, that was being excavated at the mines for me. It was 16 inches in diameter and would have been a fine specimen, but in digging around it, it was bruised and subsequently spoiled.

About three weeks ago, the General Manager of the mines Mr S B Elliott, a fine geologist, telegraphed me that he had discovered another tree-stump far exceeding the former one both in size and shape. He had it excavated for me and it is now on its way here. I expect today or tomorrow. He says that it is the most wonderful fossil that he has ever met with, far exceeding the one on exhibition at the Centennial. I wish to present it to the Sheffield Scientific School for the Peabody Museum and addressed

a letter to Prof. Brush requesting him to try to make arrangements for its free transportation over the Erie & Allegheny R.R's. The stump measures across the top 26 inches, the roots extending out on each side two or three feet, thus making it about 7ft in diameter at the base. In removing the stump about one foot of fire clay was taken out with it so as to insure the safety of the roots - This fire clay is perfectly crowded with impressions. The finest *Lepidodendron* that I have ever seen occurs on the underside of the fire clay - The fossil weighs about a ton and is a *Sigillaria*. It was found about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile in the side of the mountain which point is 229 ft below the surface. I am having a sectional drawing made of the mountain in which it occurred, showing the different strata + veins of coal which were above it. I think that the fossil will be a great addition to the S.S.S.'s collection.

Most Respectfully Yours
Willard North

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