upper end was of a softer and more perishable texture than the lower.

These fossils were first made known to science from specimens collected by Mr. Richardson on the Island of Anticosti in 1856. Occurring in a marine formation, I thought they might be the remains of gigantic sea-weeds, and, in my report for 1857, placed them under the title "PLANTÆ", but next after those that I considered of uncertain class. Since then they have remained in the cases of the museum arranged among the fucoids. In 1858, I took specimens with me to England, and had slices made for microscopic investigation. They were submitted to Dr. Hooker, who at first thought he could detect some traces of plant-structure in them, but on a subsequent examination he came to the conclusion that the evidence was not sufficient to show that they belonged to the vegetable kingdom. Since that time large additional collections have been made, and have been carefully studied by Dr. J. W. Dawson and myself. Dr. Dawson agrees with Dr. Hooker that no plant-structure can be detected, and has long maintained that these fossils constitute a peculiar genus of corals allied to *Cystiphyllum*.* Prof. E. J. Chapman, of Toronto, has also expressed the same opinion.† Prof. J. Hall, and the late S. P. Woodward thought they might belong to the order *Rudistes*. J. W. Salter has made the suggestion that, notwithstanding their great size, they may be annelide tubes.‡ A. Hyatt, jr. excludes them from the vegetable kingdom, and says, that they constitute "a new and interesting order among the Mollusca, closely allied to the Orthoceratites."§

When I first described these fossils I had no specimen that exhibited either of the extremities; the internal structure, with the exception of the central tube and concentric layers, was also unknown. I thought they might be marine plants, but was never perfectly satisfied that they were. The large collections since made have enabled us to ascertain nearly the whole structure.

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* This Journal, vol. 3, p. 85.

† "Their true place is probably among the Corals," CHAPMAN,—Canadian Journal, New Series, vol. 3, p. 331.

‡ "Mr. Salter believes that the Beatricea, though thirty feet long, may be a gigantic annelide tube, allied to Cornulites. Its cellular structure leads him to this view. Amphitrite has a thick shelly tube some feet in length.—Sir R. I. MURCHISON,—'Siluria,' ed. 3, p. 460.

§ Am. Jour. Sci. [2] vol. 39, p. 261.