

Received by J. M. Dawson



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ART. I.—*A new Erian (Devonian) Plant allied to Cordaites*;
by Sir WM. DAWSON.

I HAVE recently, through the kindness of R. D. Lacoe, Esq., of Pittston, Pa., had an opportunity to study a remarkably fine specimen collected by him in the lower Catskill (Upper Devonian) at Meshoppen, Wyoming Co., Pennsylvania, and which promises to throw much light on some difficult questions of fossil botany, as well as to add a new and very interesting form to the Devonian flora. The present note is intended as merely a preliminary notice. The full discussion of this unique plant will require a reference to much of the work that has been done in *Cordaïtes*, *Næggerathia*, etc., from the time of Sternberg to the recent reports of Lesquereux and Fontaine, and I hope will illustrate a number of fragmentary and enigmatical specimens which have long been in my own collections, and which need further study in connection with it.

The specimen is a branch or small stem $2\frac{1}{2}$ cm in diameter and 46 cm in total length. It is flattened and pyritised, and shows, under the microscope, merely the indications of a pith surrounded by a fibrous envelope, the minute structure of which is not very well preserved, but it is hoped by proper treatment may give some further information. The stem shows portions of about 15 leaves which have been at least 16 cm long and 3 to 4 cm broad. They are decurrent, apparently by a broad base, on the stem. Their distal extremities are seen in a few cases, but in all seem injured by mechanical abrasion or decay. It seems most probable that they were truncate and uneven at