

1

The third and last volume of W. D. Schimper's *Végétale Paléontologie* (*Traité de Paléontologie végétale ou la flore du monde primitif etc.*) is out. The outlines of this remarkable work, as exposed in the prospectus of the 1st volume, have been mentioned in this Journal Sept^r 1869. An exception to the general case, the work gives far more than promised. It has one hundred and ten plates (folios) illustrating most of the genera, instead of one hundred ^{which were promised} and both the second and the third volume have each two hundred pages of ~~representing~~ ~~matter~~ more than the first which was already of large size (730 pages). The third volume contains, besides a supplementary addition of the species discovered and described since the beginning of the work in 1869, clear and important remarks on the distribution of the fossil floras in regard to their geological relations and successions, with tables of the characteristic species of each geological group. It has also a full exposition of the literature on vegetable paléontology or an enumeration of all the works published on the subject. The amount of materials presented in Schimper's *Traité* or *Synopsis* is indeed prodigious. The number of species described reach nearly six thousand, distributed in eight hundred and fifty genera which ~~are~~ like the species ^{are} clearly ~~and~~ ~~the~~ characterized ~~not~~ ^{and} remarked upon ^{in regard to} their limitation, relation etc. As all the American species of fossil plants published before the completion of the work have been carefully recorded

2

in it and as their number is already large, this book
will be as acceptable and useful to Americans as to
European naturalists interested in geological and
paleontological studies.

Perhaps you may find convenient to say something
more. — Schimper dedicates his book to St. Brongniart of Paris,
O. Heer of Zurich, Count de Saporta of Aix, France and
Leo Lesquereux of Columbus whom he calls his dearest
friends and the great promoters of vegetable paleontology.

Schimper worked fortably at Strasbourg during the
Siege when constantly under the fire of the Prussians and
menaced of the ~~total~~ destruction of his property, his
library, even of the collections which were used for
his descriptions. Some errors of the first volume
have been reproached to him (especially by Dawson)
They have been fully explained in the last volume.
As soon as ready with the fossil plants, Schimper
has begun a second edition of his synopsis *Musceum
Europ.* which you well know — I suppose that
you have here more than enough for a kind note
on a scientific work which is certainly of the highest
scientific order, most valuable and also interesting by
the beauty and clearness of style and expression.

Please say nothing of the dedication if you do not
think it honourable to American science. My name is of no matter in it.



Lesquereux, Léo. 1874. "Lesquereux, Léo Dec. 31, 1874 [enclosed note]." *Leo Lesquereux letters to Asa Gray*

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