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Local field note-book of Lester Ward

Extracted on Apr-23-2024 10:17:21

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1892

December 2. - continued

Along the face of the cut where the second group of views was taken there occur many clay pellets of small size which seem to belong to two entirely different classes. viz. 1st Potomac clay rolled by wave action into symmetrical balls, as is common at Hawkins Point and on the James, these then buried in sand and permanently preserved, and 2d decomposed or softened rock pebbles, rounded as such and subsequently disintegrated by proximity to the moist surfaces in the same manner that most of the crystalline rock is disintegrated when near the surface. One specimen (see collection) was green and resembled some of the supposed Miocene pockets seen at Richmond, White House Bluff &c., but I do not think it is such. Others are red and of other colors. Some large angular block are similarly disintegrated.

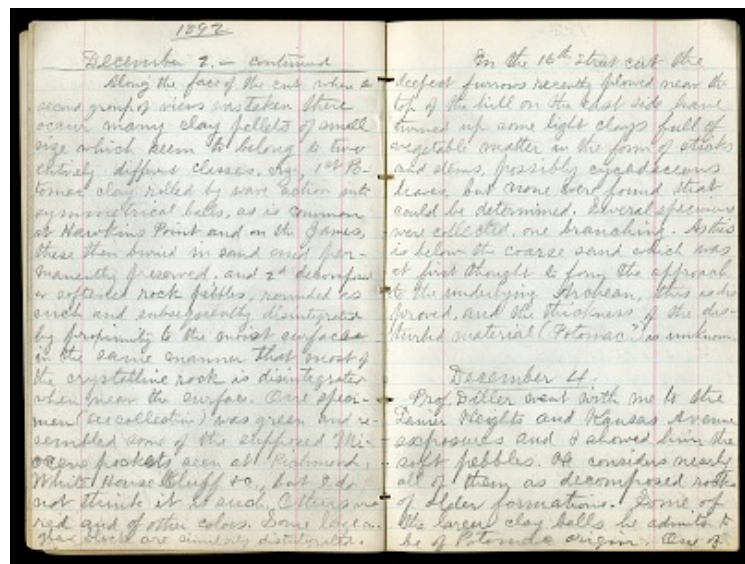
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In the 16th Street cut the deepest furrows recently plowed near the top of the hill on the east side have turned up some light clays full of vegetable matter in the form of sticks and stems, possibly cycadaceous leaves, but none were found that could be determined. Several specimens were collected, one branching. As this is below the coarse sand which was at first thought to form the approach to the underlying Archean, this is disproved, and the thickness of the disturbed material (Potomac?) is unknown.

December 4:

Prof. Diller went with me to the Lanier Heights and Kansas Avenue exposures and I showed him the soft pebbles. He considers nearly all of them as decomposed rocks of older formations. Some of the larger clay balls he admits to be of Potomac origin. One of



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