

MACQUARIE HARBOUR LEAF BEDS.

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In the Tasmanian Museum there is a most valuable collection of fossil leaves belonging to the earlier tertiary period of Tasmania, but in respect of which there is no record as to the locality from which they were originally obtained. I was long of opinion that this peculiar group of fossil plants was obtained by Dr. Milligan from Macquarie Harbour in the early days of the colony's history, and this conviction was one of the main reasons which induced me to visit and examine the leaf deposits of Macquarie Harbour in the year 1887. In this examination I was unsuccessful in discovering the exact deposit from which the Museum collection was obtained, but the discovery of the same forms in the lacustrine beds in the neighbourhood of Long Bay tended to confirm me in the notion that the unknown deposit was a member of the lacustrine leaf beds extending from the latter locality to Kelly's Basin; and in my work on geology (p. 203, "Geology of Tasmania"), I ventured to predict that an examination of the many fine sections further east "may in the future determine this matter." I am happy now to be in the position to declare that the hitherto unknown locality has been discovered; for in a fine collection of fossils made by that indefatigable member of our society, Mr. T. B. Moore, and sent last year to Mr. Belstead, I was fortunate in recognising the identical rock, together with the usual impressions of leaf forms, so characteristic of the museum collection referred to. I now present a specimen of the rock in question, in order that those interested may be able to judge of its value in clearing up this interesting point in our tertiary geology. On a future occasion I may be able to give a description of the more remarkable plants contained in this deposit.