San Francisco, May 16th, 1871

Prof. C. S. Marsh

Dear Sirs,

Your note of 6th inst. with copies of your article on fossils at Calistoga, has been received for which please accept our thanks. The pamphlet forms an important addition to our collection of Pacific Coast publications.

We would respectfully call your attention to the enclosed circular. Before working up our library we wish to obtain contributions of information from original sources. If any subject or subjects occur to you in which you are especially interested which you will furnish us articles short or long according to your own convenience, we shall be glad to put your name upon our list of contributors. The territory covered by our scheme extends from the Isthmus to the Arctic Circle west of the Rocky Mts. & includes the Sandwich Islands.

Hope to hear from you as an early date in relation to this matter. Be remain

Yours very Respectfully

A. L. Bancroft, Jr.
The Pacific Encyclopedia

of

History, Biography, Science, Commerce, Politics

and General Information.

For several years past we have entertained the idea of publishing a work of Universal Information upon matters relative to the Pacific Coast; a work, which, taking up men and things from the beginning, will, in clear and concise statements, forever establish such facts as are worth preserving.

And we feel it is time for this work to be commenced. Those who are now laying the foundations of a vast empire upon this new soil, will soon pass away, and their deeds be lost in oblivion; facts and circumstances considered now of little moment will possess greater significance to those who come after us.

Our object is to transfix an immense mass of valuable material which is now fast fading away, and to preserve it in a suitable shape.

It is no small undertaking; the steady occupation of five or ten persons for five or ten years is what we look forward to at the outset. We have collected a library for this purpose of about 15,000 volumes, and it is yet by no means complete.

As a money-making enterprise it offers no attractions whatever; but as a work upon which to build a reputation, and take a pride in, every intelligent thinking man who has ever done anything worthy of record, is as much and more interested in it than we are.

But with the help of those who will appreciate our efforts and judge fairly our motives, we will try it, and we ask their hearty co-operation in the collection of material for the work.

A. L. BANCROFT & CO.,

721 Market Street,
San Francisco, Cal.
CONTRIBUTORS

TO AN

Encyclopedia of the Pacific Coast.

Ogden Hoffman,
Judge U. S. District Court.

Wm. Ingraham Kip,
Bishop of California.

John B. Felton.

Hall McAllister.

Horatio Stebbins, D. D.

Frank Soule.

John T. Doyle.

Henry H. Haight,
Governor of California.

Rev. Augustus W. Loomis.

Wm. M. Gwin.

David D. Colton.


Maurice C. Blake.

Fred. W. Loring,
Boston.

Nathaniel Bennett.

Henry Cox, D. D.

James T. Gardner.

John R. Jarboe.

Elwood Evans,
Washington Ter.

G. A. Shurtleff, M. D.,
Stockton.

Joseph S. Alemany,
Archbishop of San Francisco.

John W. Dwinelle.

James Blake, M. D.,
Pres’ of Cal. Academy of Natural Sciences.

H. H. Toland, M. D.

John G. McCullough.

Andrew L. Stone, D. D.,
Alphonse L. Pinart,
Paris.

Morris M. Estee.

John Swett.

James T. Boyd.

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Albert Hart.

John B. Harmon.

James De Fremery.

Charles H. Sawyer.

John B. Frisbie.