Canon City Colo.

Feb. 8, 1889.

Prof. B. C. Marsh.

Dear Sir:

Since I came home we have been unable to do any work in the garden, owing to the thawing and stormy weather we have had. Papa is not able to do any work at present, but is better than when I came home.

What work remains to be done I think that Red and I can easily finish, as soon as the weather will allow. I remain

Very Respectfully,

Sadie G. Felch.

[on behalf of M. P. Felch]
Caron City Cote. Feb. 10th 1891

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir,

Your very kind and welcome letter of the 4th inst. I have just received, and I wish to say that it gives me great relief to get it, for I have been a good deal worried of late about how I could give you any satisfactory explanation of my long neglect in writing, and now this gives me a little start in that direction.

You mention of writing to me a year ago or so, but it is more than a year and a half since I have received a letter from you. Though, since that time I have got from you the paper on the horned saurians of the Cretaceous and a No. 2. Herald with your summing up of some of Levi's favorite tricks. That was a crusher sure.

I will try now and write up a full account of how matters have been with us during the last two years.

In the summer following my daughter's return from the East I kept putting off from time to time sending the specimens collected the season before hoping all the time to get able to go to work a little and add something more to the collection. For it seemed to me that compared with
the work of some former years the lot was of but little account. Here
being nothing new or of much interest, although we had gone into
a good deal of ground and worked hard to get it.

Winter came on hard. I had not
been able to do anything and the bones still on hand— all snug
and safe as we supposed. Nothing ever having been meddled with
up to that time. The packages all inside a tent made of a very
waggon sheet, pegged down tight and fastened securely.

Toward the latter part of Dec.
a friend in Drums wrote me that if I could only make the trip
up there he would get Gen. Cooper to help me in pushing my claim
for pension along. So wife and I started. I was taken very
bad with my old complaint—heart trouble, on the way there and
had to be carried to my friend's room— which I did not leave for
ten days and then to come directly home and for the next five
months was in a very critical condition a good deal of the time,
and the only time I went to town up to the 5th of July last I had to
have a bed made in the wagon to ride on. Was then called to go on
some legal business before the Clerk of the Court or should not have
gone then.

While we were gone to Drums or soon after we came back
our tent, some packs and other tools were stolen— the packages
cut open scattered mixed and sniffs around so that everything
was ruined.

My son, Ned, and a neighbor were the first to find out about it. But our folks did not dare to mention it to me in the situation I was in until it was too late to get hold of the one who done the mischief.

The work was done as much for spite as anything by a fellow named Lee, Broussard, a roving wood and tie chopper and hunter at work here at the time for a company that was boring for oil. I never had a word with the scamp but he and Ned had some trifling dispute and he took that way to get even and also to steal a good tent to take with him when backing.

After he had left here for parts unknown a young fellow that came with Broussard from the mountains in the fall and had backed with him while here, told us who done and why it was done and gave as a reason for not letting us know of it sooner that he was a desperate character and he feared him and that if we had attempted to prosecute him he would have tried to do us still more damage but if I had of known it at the time I would have got after him and took all the chances.
Taking this in connection with my long sickness and the expenses attending it - debts accumulating, poor crops on the farm - no chance to sell anything at any price - completely disheartened me - and I gave up and didn't care much how things went. I knew I should write you and tell the truth about matters - but I didn't have the nerve and courage to do it.

Matters did not improve with the season. It was very dry here and we had a continual fight to maintain our priorities and get water to make half a crop. I was hard pressed for means to get along till in Nov. to pay the most pressing of our debt. I sold that fine span of horses we had when you were here last for $140, the same team I was once offered and refused 400 for, but now when we had got to about the end of the season the result of our trip to Drum last winter began to crop out. Gov. Cooper through Proctor got my claim made special - and the result was last week I got my first money. With that pay enough to pay up the debts, and there have three or four hundred dollars for my wife and I to go back and make our old homes and relatives in New England a good visit.

I did think and say once that I would never return to New England unless I could go in some kind of shape. But are getting one that and think it my duty to visit my old father and mother in any kind of style I can get there in.
To wind up this part of the subject I will say that I am now better than in any time for nearly thirty months, and though not strong enough yet to do more than chore work. I hope that now when I won't have to worry so much as I have that I shall yet get so as to do something again.

Now that I have made a full statement and confession, I wish to know what I can do for you to make up for my neglect and omission of duty in the past. Keeping in mind something of what I have had to go through and the manner I have tried to attend to affairs heretofore.

If I go back hence I want to visit you at New Haven and feel free and all right to do so for next to making a visit to the old homestead I think I should enjoy that as much or more than anywhere else.

Our family are well and desires to be remembered to you though Sadie is at present attending a school out in Kansas.

Thanking you again for your great kindness and consideration in the past. I am very respectfully yours,

M. P. Hix
Yes there was a new bone quarry discovered some
over a year ago, and the man, Lambert I believe
had it surveyed, staked out and worked it for awhile.

But at last accounts, some six weeks ago, he had
ceased working it as it failed to pay. So it was
told me.

It is located on the Old Grap Creek road to
Webster Park, some 10+8 miles from town, and in the
blue Jurassic marl.

I have never been there myself, but soon
after they got well at work to taking out bones I sent
a young man there to take notes, giving him accurate
instructions as to what to look for, and then report to
me, so in case there should be anything new or of value
to let you know about it.

This duty the young man did well
and they never had a hint of what he was up to. Though
he went there several times, and from his report I
concluded they had got another Lucas field. Though
the bones in the new field were not as plentiful as
in the old quarry where Lucas worked for Cofts.
On last Election day I saw a lot of bones from there—two lots—one in the Library Rooms—and the other a private collection.

Among these in the library is a large genus over five feet long, massive, and well preserved—evidently from one of the large Sauropoda. In the private collection are several smaller leg bones and fragments and a lot—a dozen or more of the bodies of vertebras all anterior caudals and lumbar I should judge things in most all cases the neural spines and side spines were gone. Badly water worn though the party that has them thinks and exhibits them as perfect specimens just as they grew in the animal.

All of the bones I have seen from there seem to be of the same kind. Large Sauropoda—none of the smaller or Carnivorous species, and I could not hear of a foot bone tooth or skull being formed—make good Cabinet specimens where not too badly water worn but of no great scientific value.

The bones in the quarry the young man told me were not continuous; or many together rather badly scattered about—one here and another there—but as for the smaller bones—not being found
It is possible they did not look for them much, the idea of the value being the bigger the bone the more it was worth proportionately.

For a while the finders thought they had made a fortune, but when they came to try and sell this specimen found the market dull.

I knew they wrote to Cape and other probaly to you, but I never heard of their selling anything. Although I was told that Prof. Cape offered to pay what they were worth to him if they would ship them to him, but some question about pre-payment of freight ended the transaction.

If you would like to know more of the quarry, and have me make a visit to it when the snow gets off, I will do so, but my present notion of the find is that about all there is is a piece of one of their overgrown monsters, laid out his bones but that there is nothing to show only in a general way to the order or family it belonged to.

Very Respectfully

M. P. Field
P.S.

There are no other parties but at Lambeto quarry that have done anything in the way of getting out bones that I have heard of.

M. P. H.
Canon City Colo. Mar. 19 1891

Prof Marsh

Dear Sir

Since my last the party who has filed on the fossil beds near Wistia Park has visited me to see if I would not recommend him to you or others to supply him in working his ground this season.

Knowing that he had made some sort of an agreement with parties in town to work the ground in partnership I met in last week and saw the President of the Board of Trade who gave me a full history of how it has been managed since discovery.

A little more than a year since one Lambeth by name was dusk hunting in that section and ran across some bone cappings. took time to visit. I think who told him what they were and advised him to go back and prospect for more and if he found any in quantity he would help.
him to dispose of them.

Lambirth went back, put on to quite a lot of large and well preserved bones, returned to Canoe, reported and then the Board of Trade offered to go in with him on something like the following conditions:

They were to file on the ground as a placer claim, pay the expenses of the work and recording, let him to work at three dollars a day and found, paying all his expenses, tools, etc., and half all gold. Whole skeleton = the first one taken out, and after that they would continue to pay him the three dollars a day and expenses, and then divide equally what could be found afterwards. The Board of Trade taking half and Lambirth half.

Well they started in, worked two or three months and got into a quarrel.

The Board were slow in payments. Lambirth says he had to spend half his time in trying to collect his pay and the other party accused Lambirth of hiding and stealing all the test specimens to
Sell to outside parties. And after a time spent in wrangling they quit work as Lambeth could not sell the specimens stated (the story of the other side) hadn’t a dollar and couldn’t get trusted for grub and so the matter dropped.

Lambeth tells me that his agreement which was put on record is null and void while the other party claim that they have furnished money enough to pay the assessment work required on a placer claim for another year and can hold it if they wish too and if there should be a contest Lambeth would be beaten I think for he hasn’t anything to fight a Corporation with. From what I saw of Lambeth in this one interview I make him out a worse crank than Motus and that he is wholly unreliable in his dealings is the evidence of about all who know him. He said he could show me if I wanted.
I would go over five acres of better ground than any he had got worked. Had not let the other party
know of it — and I believe from his description of
the lay of the ground and the crops that he has
got a good quarry — and if he could be trusted
to deal with — and the thing wasn’t so badly
mixed up with others I would like to take hold
of it for awhile and see what could be found.

So for buying him out — hiring or leasing
the ground nothing could be done with him as he
regards it worth more than any gold or silver mine
in the State.

It may be that after he has held on to
it for another season and has no better luck in finding
treasure for his specimens that he can be dealt with
in some kind of reason but as he feels now this
is little use of trying to have much to do with him.

I have set no time as yet to
go East — will write you before I go. Shall want to
go down into Virginia if I go back and take a look
for fossils. I had a letter last summer from an
old army comrade who says he found bones so plenty
on his farm that he was going to try to sell them
for fertilizers. Respectfully yours W. B. Blox
Perron N. N., 6-9-91

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir,

I arrived here some three weeks since. I am enjoying my visit, finding the rate of my visit and feeling better in health every day of my stay.

I go from here to Post Mills, Vermont to-morrow where I shall make a visit of a week or ten days and then to Providence R. I. unless the weather gets too warm in which case I may go up to Nantucket until the extreme hot weather is over.

Before returning from Providence or before going there I thought if you were to be at home for a few days that I would go to New Haven. go there direct from Post Mills in ten days or so. or go to Providence first and from there to New Haven and then home to this place. If nothing happens to prevent I may stay here until October or later.

My address for the present will be Post Mills, Mr. H. Replis.

M. P. Flech
Post Mills R. 6-24° 91

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir,

I should have answered your letter sooner but have been somewhat undecided about where to put in my time to the most profit, and worry through the recent hot spell as best I could.

I am going from here tomorrow to Providence and remain there until next Monday (29) and then can go to New Haven if you are to be at home then for two or three days.

If I go there as planned shall go back to Providence and come back to N. Y. in company with friends who will leave there the Monday after the Fourth.

In going to New Haven I do not want to take up an hour of your time for I know very well the value of it—and that you have but little time to spare outside of your work. All I expect is that you may give me a chance to look around and see some of the many valuable specimens you have collected for the museum.

If you have any other arrangements made, and
Will not be at home then I can put off the visit there until just before going home.

My address at Providence will be—No. 7 Charles Street.

Respectfully yours

W. P. Fitch
M. P. Fiske
(Aus Oct 27, 94)

Po, Mass. (Providence R. I., 10-24-91)

Dear Sir,

I have just received a letter from home and they tell me there has been a letter waiting for me from you for some little time.

I had intended to go home before this - but it has been so pleasant and I have been feeling so well here that I have prolonged my stay - and shall probably not get home here before the 15th or 20th of next month. Unless something special turns up that requires me to go home before, I shall be here at Providence for a week or so more and then go to Michigan for a short stay and then home.

A letter directed as above will reach me here.

My health has improved greatly and I am as heavy in might as ever before in my life.

Very Respectfully,

M. P. Fiske
Canon City, Colo. Dec. 31st, 1892

Dr. Marsh

Dear Sir,

I had been in hopes on this to have had something of interest to write you, but so far, in our line nothing has turned up worth noting.

When I arrived home from the East I was better than I had been for years and fully expected to pitch in and accomplish a good bit of work, but a few days after getting home I had an attack of grip slight only at first, but soon all my old chronic trend took hold worse than ever and so severe as to keep me from doing anything until in Oct. last, since which time I have been improving somewhat.

In Nov. a young friend of mine just returned from a three years sojourn in the City of Del Mexico and who used to be with us some when we worked the quarry. Offered to go out with me and hunt for fossils and we made several trips up and around the vicinity of Cotton Rock and where
The young man who helped me in New Haven intends to visit New Haven this winter. His name is George Spuyten Duyvil, is a very worthy and reliable young man, has an uncle who is a member of the city government of New Haven.

I will give him a line to you and he can tell you more of how things are with us. If not asking too much I wish you would let some of your young men that I saw there show him over the museum and any little attentions

I will greatly appreciate.

Our family are all well

and send regards.

Very Respectfully

W. P. Felt
I never worked but found nothing outside the Old Dinosaur horizon. The heavy snow and extreme cold matter which set in about Thanksgiving and which still lasts put a stop to further explorations. But I intend when it gets toward spring to make a thorough hunt wherever that peculiar red strata crops out up and down the Canon where that formation occurs, although I am afraid the specimen Baldwin sent you may have been a strag and the only one of its kind.

I have several papers and pamphlets from you all of much interest for which I am very thankful.

I have an offer from a young man in Provo, R. I., to go down in the vicinity of Fort Wingate, on the Canon of the C. in the spring if I am able to stand the trip then, and may find something worth collecting in the fossil line. The object is to gather relics of the Cliff Dwellers, minerals, mosses, etc., and should we decide to go I thought perhaps you might give me some hints of what to look for. Localities kind of specimens. But as that is a prospect of the future will not trouble you about it now.
Tamar City, Colo. Jan. 2" 1893

Prof. O. C. Marsh

Dear Sir,

This will introduce to your notice Mr. George Springer, the young man of whom I spoke in a recent letter. I have known him from quite a youth and always as one who is reliable, enterprising and of strict integrity and good habits.

Any attentions shown him will be gratefully appreciated by me.

Respectfully,

W. P. Heek