20A Washington Street
Brooklyn.

May 26th, 1844

Professor O. C. Marsh

Dear Sir,

I hope you will excuse me for taking the liberty of asking your opinion on a matter I consider of great importance. My apology for doing so is that I know of no one else will I more competent than yourself for solving the following questions.

What kind of animal does the enclosed tracing represent? Until now to-day in Yucatan, does it belong to an extinct species?

Would you be able by the inspection of a number of bones—say, parts of jaws, vertebrae—to determine the species of animal to which they belong, and the approximate number of years since the animal lived?

I will explain.

During my last expedition at Chichen Itza, from where I returned to Mexico towards the latter part of January last, the election of which as recently been published in the "Scientific American." I have opened a mound, I knew to be, by the bas-relief
and inscriptions in ancient Maya hieratic letters, to be the mausoleum of the high priest, Ijaj, a son of king, car, the founder of many of the cities whose ruins are scattered through the forests of Yucatan. (The ancient Maya alphabet discovered by me bears a remarkable resemblance to the Egyptian alphabet discovered by Champollion.) This mound contained the relics of a most ancient temple, destroyed most likely during the cataclysms during which Atlan was engulfed, as described at the beginning of the second part of the Troano MS.

Among other things, laying between two obelisks, arrow heads, was found the skeleton of a small animal. The bones has to be handled most tenderly as they crumble to dust on being touched. The jaws, that were armed with very sharp pointed teeth, (conical) terminated in a point. Strange to say, after being exposed half a hour to the action of the atmosphere, and notwithstanding the fact of having been buried in moist for many and many centuries, the bones have no smell when disinterred, emitting the well known cadaveric feter.

The animal represented on the mural paintings, of which you have a copy before you, is portrayed as being simocalic to the serpent, which is seen sometimes wound a tree in a menacing attitude, and if having just wounded his adversary, as indicated by the drops of blood on its tongue, lower jaw and near the left ear.

Now you are perfectly aware that the Egyptian God Nubti (a name which endured in the Maya language would read Napti), the adversary is figured under a human form having the head of a quadruped. With an elongated nose. The Egyptologists are uncertain as to the nature of said animal. Many even believe it to be imaginary. Nubti is said to have been the third son of Nebes nut, hence the brother of Otidis and his slayer. Otoris tells us (prop. Evang. lib. 10) that the agamones man was figured under the form of a serpent, and Otidis was considered as the good genius.

How strange as it may appear, the very same story of the death of Otidis by his brother is reported in Maya. Where we have the (short) murder at Atalan by three thrusts of his lance — through pectoral his brother cut; but with this difference that in Egypt the whole story is a myth — a tradition. Whilst in Yucatan we have not only the portraits of the actors in that...
early drama, pictured in mural paintings and bas reliefs, but their mausolea, containing beside their statues, were with their ornaments they were living life, but their very remains. And we read the particulars of the crime in the second part of the troika and, after the recital by the author of the destruction of Athen.

I sent to the antiquarian Society of Worcester a small part of the heart of both. I was acquainted by professor Tompkin of the Chemical Institute of Worcester who associated with several other competent specialists, pronounced the object submitted to them. What I knew it to be organic matter that has been submitted to intense heat in an open vessel. I have still in my possession part of the contents taken from the urn found near the breast of the statue.

I give you these particulars in order to enable you to form your opinion as to the probable date when the animal lived, and to impress you with the great importance to determine said date if possible. If you think that by the inspection of the bones you may be able to settle the question I will send you some of them - the better preserved. I intend to send some also to professor Hussey in order also to have his opinion on the
Matter, to be able to present in any work, the decisions of two such learned paleontologists as Professor Marsh and Huxley are known to be, and thus avoids the ancient aphorism testis versus testis miles being repeated by sceptics in that case.

Accept, dear Sir, the assurance of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor of subscribing myself

Your most obedient,

Augustus de Plongeon

M. L. 20.
From the mural paintings at Chichen Itza. Tracing by Auguste de Rongeau. Dec 2 1883.
Pot Washington Street
Brooklyn
January 3rd, 1884.

Prof. C. C. Marsh.

Dear Sir,

The enclosed letter from my friend Justice Stephen J. Field, which I beg you to return, will explain my motive for writing to you.

My name is known to you. I once wrote to you in May 1884 concerning a small animal from which skeleton I found in the mausoleum of the High Priest Cay at Chichen Itza. The model I sent you on June 20, 1884, part of said skeleton I enclose a list of what may be called my collections. I have no specimen of pottery.
or Eric-a-Crae of which museums
are generally made. I care nothing
for these curios as they teach nothing.
What I have are carefully made
molds of the Sculptured Stones, bas-
reliefs, inscriptions that adorn the
walls of several of the ruined monu-
ments of Teotihuacan. What remains of
Ancient American art— as you may
see in my book “Sacred Mysteries”
plans and photos of the buildings—
so that with said plans, photos, mural
paintings, inscriptions, bas reliefs and
sculptured ornaments — we can repro-
duce perfect fac-similes of the
Ancient monuments as they are now,
and with a little care, restore them
so as to appear as they were in the
time of their Splendor.

Our object has been to preserve
what remain of them, so that students
of Ancient American history may
study the monuments without in-

Curing the heavy expenses of the voyage or returning the gout of yellow fever or hostile Indians, or suffering the privations and discomfort of life in forests only inhabited by venomous reptiles, poisonous insects and wild beasts.

Of course you are acquainted with my publications, and know therefore the great historical teachings, I was going to say revelations, we have received by studying the inscriptions, bas-reliefs, and sculptures. Soon my Memoirs of the Monuments of Mayas and their historical teachings will be in the hands of the printers. When the great value of these edifices, which are being destroyed, more and more every day will become still more apparent. I have an inscription 12 meters long that I think relates to epochs anterior to the time of the destruction of "Atlantis". That is, so far as I could make out.
When making the Models.

There are scattered in the forests, objects unknown to anyone except Mrs. Le Plongeon and myself, covered with most interesting, tale-telling sculptures. With means and proper protection a wealth of knowledge could be brought to light. It is our intention to revisit these places where objects can be seen that are sufficient to fill many large halls. Objects are relating to one people, and the history of their rulers and their civilization.

I shall be most happy to meet you when you find leisure to come to N.Y. Then I shall talk to you more at length and try to interest you in my work of bringing to the knowledge of the world, ancient American history and civilization.

Your's respectfully,

Aug[us]t Le Plongeon.

M.L.
Jan. 9th, 1889.

Prof. O. C. Marsh.

Dear Sir,

Five days ago I posted to your address an envelope containing a letter I had just received from my friend Justin S. F. Field, giving a catalogue of my collections from the ruined cities of Yucatan, and of the results published and to be published by Dr. Hodgeon and myself, on some of the results of our researches among the monuments of the Mayas, also a note explaining my motive for sending these papers to you.

Having received no acknowledgment of these documents having reached you, or the letter of Judge Field,
I beg to return to me. I naturally fear that this envelope was not delivered to you. Will you kindly inform me? For if it has miscarried as was the case no doubt, with the small box of bones, found by me in a very ancient mound at Chichen Itza, that I mailed to you in June 1884, I will have it stored in the Post Office.

Enclosed please find a tracing from the walls of the funeral Chamber of Prince Coh at Chichen Itza. It represents an animal unknown to day in Yucatan. and I suspect the bones I found in the Mausoleum of the High Priest Cary belong to the individual of that kind. But what is it? It seems to belong to the Nausacor family, although it does not exist in this continent.

Yours respectfully,
Auguste Le Pangeron.
M.A.
Loth Washington Street
Brooklyn

January 17th, 1889

Prof. C.C. Marsh.

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 14th inst. came to hand only this morning. Thank you for the same, and your mention of me to Seneca Stanford. If any one is peculiarly able to do much for the students of American archaeology and ancient American history it is he. I am doing my part the best I can; but you know how little can be accomplished in such a vast field of inquiry, with advised means. I have already in 14 years expended already 50000 in my explorations - mainly by my body. I am now at the end of my tether. I cannot go any further, unless some one supplies a price to the extremity of the cape. My large book "Monuments of Mayan" is now ready for publication. Agree ever,

[Signature]
are not willing to venture on special works that may interest a few scientific and investigating minds, and which may not prove a good speculation. These books have to be printed with private capitals—like my work "Sacred Mysteries." The contents have attracted some attention in Europe with my permission, it is now being translated into German in Berlin, and it may soon be published in French in Paris, written by me in that language. It exists in the library of the Yale College. Mr. Tillinghast having procured it. It reflects many of the old theories and opinions, but that cannot be helped. The historical facts discovered by me cannot more be set aside than the palaeontological smear that by you. And all the theories against the fact that rhinoceros flourished on this continent, will not destroy the fossils of the 16 species you brought to light; and the opinions that this continent received its civilization from Asia or Africa, will have to vanish in presence of the cosmogonical—historical and religious traditions carved on the walls of the sacred edifices still extant in Sicetania, of which I have carefully made perfect impressions and moulds.
I am delighted to learn that the little box with bone, that I had mourned as lost, has reached you — and quite surprised to hear that the bones were the remains of a baby crocodile. I did not see the small skeleton in place, or else I would have known by the shape. I have told you, that contrary to my orders, my workmen had removed it from the place where it laid, during my absence from the excavation. When I gathered the bones, strange to say, they were still impregnated with a cadaverous odor, which soon vanished at the contact of the atmosphere.

What now bothers me is how to explain the presence of that small crocodile, placed between two beautiful obsidian spear heads, the points directed toward the south, in the sanctuary of the high priest's day (Ishk) in the midst of the relics of a very ancient temple.

Crocodiles do not exist today at least, in that part of the peninsula. (Chicken) I know by translating the Troano inscriptions that the crocodile was the emblem of some of the West Indies Islands. In the sculptures I have discovered those in
was the name of a very ancient Chieftain, whose portrait I have among my medals—but he did not belong to the Royal Family of the Cane (serpent). Why should then a crocodile be placed, and in the conditions I have stated, in the tomb of one of the members of that family? I have found, as yet, no evidence that as in Egypt, the Crocodile was regarded as sacred, by the Mayas. You have opened for me a new field of inquiry—be sure that I will explore it to the best of my ability.

But what is that other animal, the picture of which I sent you? It is, the totem of the enemy of the Can dynasty—that I know.

Excuse for taking so much of your time at a moment when you are so busy—but having a chance of learning some facts that might throw more light on my studies, I would not let it escape.

Yours truly, Aug. Le Plongeon,

M.D.