Philadelphia, Augt 9, 1860.

O. C. Marsh Esq.

Dear Sir,

On returning home after a brief absence I find your favor of the 29th ult. and have also yours of yester-

day.

I have received a letter from Mr. Chapell, who also desires his portrait plate fi-

ished. but in that way I learn incidentally that he had left with Mr. McKay a portion of the first installment. When Mr. McKay has time to make out the account I shall know who else has done so. I merely mention it as preliminary to asking you whether you did as Mr. Chapell, and what is
The amount thus left of any I should not have to ask you this if I had not to answer you at once, because it appears that I shall have to go to New Haven about some New Portrait Plates (not students). I am sent for, but am not sure that I can go. If I do I shall have an opportunity of personally expressing my obligations to Mr. McKay (if he is still there) for the trouble he has been at on my account.

A good deal of work before me is very much wanted, having been kept waiting while my whole time was monopolized by the Class pictures. This makes my difficulty in giving a prompt answer.

Will you please reply to my inquiry of Slip 

Yours truly

J. H. Butler

1-28, Jan 28
Philad. Aug. 16th 1860.

O. C. Marsh Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your esteemed favor of the 11th inst. is just received.

I shall feel much pleasure in completing your plate if you desire it, and can do so by the middle of September (the time you named) although to do so will be at some inconvenience, on account of other work pressing, and which is the more urgent as my time has been so long engrossed by the Cats pictures.

I will confess however that I have misgivings as to a satisfactory result. I mean to
perceived the difficulty in rendering my work acceptable that has been seen lately in the plates done for New Haven. I was more surprised than I should have been had I known what I have since learned, that an artist has yet succeeded in satisfying any graduating class with portraits done for it, in any part of the country. A class in a southern college applied to me to name to them an artist whom I could safely recommend. I utterly rejected the commission, because it was a known impossibility to give satisfaction to college classes.

My pecuniary loss in this unfortunate affair is nearer to two thousand dollars than one thousand, and I am now busily and profitably employed in trying to work out of the consequences of it. No one finds fault with my work or the likenesses, I pay one for them cheerfully, and at twenty-five per cent on what was charged for the New Haven plates. Of perhaps one hundred and twenty thousand dollars worth of work that I have done with my own hand, I never in the whole, had the trouble that I have had with these. I suppose it proves how much college classes are in advance of them.

"We think our fathers fools, as wise we grow, Our sons are doubt in time will deem us." I paid back $320 of the money first received, and was ready to pay promptly all that Mr. Mc- Kay called for. I do not know how this covered all who had no fi...
tunes (as in your case) because I do not know which of the gentlemen it was who never paid their first instalment. I knew them only as a body, and as a body they never fulfilled their engagement, hence, some of the letters I have received are by no means remarkable for modesty, to say the least.

I will mention, by the way, the gentleman, who had paid five dollars, receiving nothing (except ambrotypes) had had his money refunded to him.

I would much rather you would yourself name what the plate finished would be worth to you. I am very busy and should have to turn off from what is paying me well. Perhaps I may see you in New Haven for it appears I am wanted there on portraits of some Professor. Yours respectfully, J. McDuart.

I should want the ambrotypes.