27th May 1885

Dear Professor March,

You may perhaps recollect our meeting at Montreal last year, at the meeting of the British Association there, and I afterwards had the pleasure of being shown, by your assistant in your absence, your profoundly interesting collection at Yale University. I write to inquire whether you will be persuaded to come to the meeting of the British Association in Aberdeen, which commences on Sept. 9th, and if so, whether you will give Mrs. Struthers and myself the pleasure and honour of your company.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Having you as our guest during the meeting of the Association. We expect a good meeting, much larger than at Montreal, and Paleontology, Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, both sciences in which you are interested, will, I am aware, be well represented by many besides the few whose names are yet to appear on the enclosed list.

Should you, as I sincerely hope, be able to come, we will look forward to the gratification of hearing you read one or more papers at the Sections.

From Liverpool to here direct is just 12 hours by rail. If you have not been in Scotland before you could see some fine scenery either before or after the meeting.

Will you allow me to mention that ever since I saw your collection at Yale, I have coveted, for our Museum, especially the possession of a cast of that magnificent Triassic Crocodile Indosthysaurus. If it is not asking too great a favour, I would feel particularly gratified and obliged by your allowing one to be made for our Museum. If you could to favour us, I would with great pleasure, besides any expenses the workmen incur make the cast, present it to you.

casts of the Rudimentary Kind limbs of Pelagic Cows of any

Neeland Right-Whales, Dr.

presented in the first Plate which I sent by same post of the accompanying Paper on those parts in the
Greenland Seale. Besides the pleasure it gave me to see you, the members of the British Assoc. I saw it, our museum in which it would then be placed contains many interesting illustrations in comparative anatomy, and it would be permanently instructive to a large body of students — some 200 in arts and 400 in medicine. By our university, all of whom passed through biological training.

Again expressing my pleasure it would give us all to have you present at the meeting of the British Association here in September last.

Yours very sincerely,

John Bronson

Professor C. C. Marsh
Yale University
New Haven, U.S.
2nd September 1885

Dear Professor Marsh,

Owing to engagements I did not receive your letter today till after our last London post had left, but I trust you received my telegram this evening. Not having heard from you adversely, I concluded that you were somewhere on your paleontological travels, and had not abandoned the idea of yet hearing from you that you were coming to Aberdeen. It will give great satisfaction to the members of the Association to know that the meeting is to
you like, at 8 o'clock at any rate. Know on Wednesday in good time to arrive at 7 to the President's Opening Address that evening. At our "At Home" on Thursday afternoon you will meet a good many of the prominent members of the Association. I enclose the Card as a matter of form to make you aware of the occasion. No excuse, of course, being required as you will be at home with us. I hope you will accompany me to the Breakfast on the Friday morning for which I enclose the formal invitation. Sir Lyon Playfair the President will reply for the Association and, at this event will not be much time for speaking.

We shall be ready to receive you as soon as
I am the President.

I am glad to get a few words from you in reply for the Society of America.

I hope you will be able to give us a Paper or Papers at the Meetings. I am to be mainly on Whales, of which I have got two rare interesting specimens, with the skeletons to them; and I will have a little paper on the development of the teeth of the foot of the whale (with a case of polydactyly), which will interest you specially.

I am not aware whether you have been before in Scotland. I trust I may mention that your best way will be —
Migvie House, Aberdeen.

(a) If you wish to travel straight kirk from London to Aberdeen, to take the train from Euston (the Caledonian), or if you wish to do it by night train is a train from Euston at 8 P.M., with sleeping cars all the way to Perth. Besides there is another night train from Euston & the usual morning one also.

(b) If you wish to see Edinburgh, break your journey, it is the Kings Cross Station (North British Railway) - either night or morning train - the Glasgow Edinburgh as it
There are several interesting excursions of the Association, on the Saturday, the Tuesday, and the Thursday (the day after the meeting closes) for the most interesting of which I will attempt to give a place for you. If you have not been in the North of Scotland I have a few days to spare after the meeting, you may see in a walk or less some of the best scenery of Scotland, by going from Inverness, down the Caledonian Canal, you may visit the chiefs of the Chiefs of the Chiefs - Lochs - Lochs, Lochs, Lochs, Lochs, and the Firths, arriving at Stirling or Glasgow.
If you are much pressed for time, you could in a couple of days, either before or after you arrive, see some good scenery at Loch Katrine or Loch Lomond.

If you will kindly write me on Monday, when your letter reaches you, what your time and movements are I could perhaps advise you more exactly.

I did not get your letter on Saturday, but you will not get my reply in London till Monday morning, as there is no delivery of letters in London on Sunday.

With best regards of
again expressing the pleasure we feel at the prospect of having you as our guest.

John Smithers
Migræ House,  
Aberdeen.  

23rd Sept. 1885

Dear Mr. Spencer Marsh, 

When I was at the Railway Station yesterday I again asked the Clerk about the double payment.

You may say again that it is not worth while, but I wish to bring them to book in this matter and will not be satisfied with a "foreigner" (if indeed I ought to call an American Citizen a foreigner) not being
Well, answer me, as shortly as you like, two questions.

1. How much did they charge you when you paid again soon after leaving Edinburgh?

The ordinary 1st class fare from Edinburgh to Aberdeen is £1.11. I suppose they charged you that. But the clerk in this is the sure.

2. Did they give you a ticket or a

Voucher (i.e. a slip of paper, with the circumstances expressed on it) and did you give kind up when you arrived at the Aberdeen Station? I presume you did.

The Clerk is quite pleasant when about it, but as there are several companies on the long line from London to Aberdeen, he asks me to sign the bill of all the Peterborough.

Quickly answer me these queries, as soon as you can.

No letters have come for you.
I will have the pleasure of writing to you again before you leave London on the 8th October. Meantime I only say again how great a pleasure it was to us all in this house to see the hunting of the 'Stag', to have you.

Mr. Struthers joins me in kindest regards

Sincerely,

John Struthers