New Haven, Oct. 22, 1871

My Dear Prof.:

Your letter from Dartmouth arrived here some time before I did, and I staid away till after the term a couple of weeks. When I arrived there was not time to get a letter to you there, so as Van Norden had written I have delayed until about this time to reach you in San Francisco. I presume that Van Norden and others have written all the news of interest.
m regard to general matters, so I will only mention some particulars. Van Nann took the number of the bales that had arrived a week or two ago, to send to you. None have come to hand since, though some must be long overdue. There were also freight bills to a considerable amount on those received. Freight having been charged from W. Lewis, I gave the amounts to Van Nann. I am glad you have succeeded so well without a top success will continue. At Woods Hole we also had great success, making
A fine skeleton from it. I believe it is all complete. A large ostrich arrived a few days ago & is now sitting. Owing to the lateness of my return I have been hard pressed with work this term. Having both Geology & Zoology to teach, as well as lots of extras. Williams has been back here dissecting turtles, but he got married last week & is now off for a few weeks on a tour.

Smith was very successful in his S. Superior work.

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Verree
Dear Sir:

Your telegram and letter were duly received. My sympathy is entirely on your side. I have neither sympathy nor respect for the present head of the U.S. Fish Commission. He has held the place long enough to prove himself incompetent to fill the position with credit to himself or justice to the country and scientific public.

I have repeatedly been asked by those in high positions to make statements looking toward his dismissal, but I have considered that any quarrel or agitation might, if things have gone on, endanger the very existence of the Fish Commission, and so have declined to do anything adverse to him or it, still a more suitable occasion.

I have no personal quarrel, for the cessation of all connection with the Fish Commission was to me a great relief. Still I consider that he has been guilty of gross maladministration in throwing aside so large a part of the work and results of the investigations made during sixteen years under Prof. Reid's administration, as the cost of many thousands of dollars and at the sacrifice of more than thirty years aggregate scientific labor (mostly not paid for). To do that is equivalent to defrauding both the country and the scientific men concerned. I have evidence satisfactory to me that he did carry on the work in progress at the time of Prof. Reid's death from personal and selfish motives. He seems to have imagined that it would not give him as much credit as it would Prof. Reid, and (as he wrote me) he preferred to go into "new and aggressive" lines of work.

Had he not previously promised me that all of Prof. Reid's plans would be carried out by himself, I should not have thought such a course so strange in a man of no more character than he has. I regard his work as worthless.

As you indicate, he has not the slightest claim to be a "scientific man." I do not know that he can deal alone on great practical knowledge of the fisheries. Before his appointment to his present place, he was known chiefly for having made certain improvements in the methods of hatching and transporting young fish. His patent fishery may or may not be a having - there are various opinions.

If my aid or influence can of any use to you in this matter, please inform me, and I will do what I can to advance the interests of the Fisheries and of Science by urging a change in the head of the U.S. Fish Commission.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) A. E. VERMILL.

P.S. I presume that you are fully aware that most of the scientific men who urged MacCredie's appointment, did so because it was evident that it must be either him or Mr. Ferguson. Of the two, they objected to the latter most.