

Whallonburgh, New York, Aug. 1, '81.

My dear Sir:

To Postmaster: ⁸⁷⁵ - Shewed both
beauty City, please forward
to the one most accessible.

right the fall

D. N. Beach 72 Whallonburgh, N. Y. Recd Aug 2
Fossil Serpent on L. Champlain. 81

Whallonburgh, New York, July 30, '88.

To Professor O. C. Marsh, or Professor
J. D. Dana, New Haven, Conn.:

Petrified animal resembling
serpent fifty feet or more long has
been discovered partly imbedded in
limestone on Lake Champlain near
here. Have examined the excavated
parts and it is unquestionably
a most important fossil. You ought
to secure it and I think either of
you could do so by coming in
person.

D. N. Beach, Care of Seventy-two.

I sent to two addresses, lest
^{person} one, or the other might be out of
the City. I cannot certainly say whether

Whallonburgh, New York, Aug. 1, '81.

My dear Sir:

I sent ~~you~~ Saturday
night the following dispatch:

Whallonburgh, New York, July 30, '81.

To Professor O. C. Marsh, or Professor
J. D. Dana, New Haven, Conn.:

Petrified animal resembling
serpent fifty feet or more long has
been discovered partly imbedded in
limestone on Lake Champlain near
here. Have examined the excavated
parts and it is unquestionably
a most important fossil. Yale ought
to secure it and I think either of
you could do so by coming in
person.

D. N. Black, Class of Seventy-two.

I sent to two addresses, lest
one ^{person} or the other might be out of
the City. I cannot certainly say whether

the stone along which the petrification is found is limestone or not, but that is my impression.

The discoverer is a natural workman, who has spent his leisure for years on geology, and in traversing the shores of Lake Champlain for their direct study. Having recently found a peculiar grain, in ~~a~~ large quantities near this point, he has moved into the wilderness, and, with a few men, is uncovering it. He found this petrification within a few weeks, and has brought portions of it to his cottage where he keeps it privately. He has a great deal of work in hand, and has left the excavation for a time of leisure. Knowing its value, and the importance of getting it out perfectly, he has told no one of its

location, and — lest curiosity-hunters should disturb him — he has set ~~out~~ ^{away} a few persons, all the excavated parts. The man is very intelligent, — has an excellent reputation, — and I think inevitable of any attempt at fraud.

Arriving here Friday night, and hearing of the discovery, — I found the man out ^{Saturday}, and, with two gentlemen interested in mining, ~~was~~ ^{was} permitted to examine the excavated parts. One of these gentlemen is quite an expert in such matters, and he and I are both of the opinion that it is a genuine petrification of great importance. A distorted account of the discovery, which ^{grain} broke out through the man's ^{help}, has got into a local paper, and I fear that the matter will

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get into the larger papers,
attract attention, and
lead to its being secured
for Harvard, or for some
other institution. Hence I
telegraphed Saturday, and
hope one or the other of you can
come on at once. Mallow'sburgh,
New York, is the nearest point
by rail or telegraph, as well
as the P.O. address. The place of
discovery is near the Lake,
nearly opposite the point where
the Beluga tenuiclavata
was discovered. I shall be
here for 10 days, and (having, I
think, got into the good graces of
the man) shall be glad to be of
any assistance possible.

Respectfully,

D. N. Breach, B.A., '72.

Professor Marsh, only

Professor Dana.