

# Iowa State University.

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

GEORGE THACHER, *President.*  
JNO. F. DILLON, M. D. LL.D.,  
*Prof. Medical Jurisprudence.*  
GUST. HINRICHS, M. D.,  
*Prof. Chemistry and Toxicology.*  
P. J. FARNSWORTH, *Sec'y.*  
*Prof. Materia Medica.*  
J. C. SHRADER, M. D.,  
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W. F. PECK, M. D., *Dean,*  
*Prof. Surgery.*  
W. S. ROBERTSON, M. D.,  
*Prof. Practice of Medicine.*  
W. D. MIDDLETON, M. D.,  
*Prof. Physiology and Microscopic Anatomy.*  
E. F. CLAPP, M. D.,  
*Prof. Anatomy.*

Iowa City, Ia., ..... 1872.

Clinton Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Prof. O. C. Marsh,

Dear Sir,

You may remember, in your first visit to the Rocky Mountains, in 1865, that you stopped over at Clinton, for a short time, examining the geology, and other matters of interest, along the Miss. River. You inquired particularly, with regard to Indian remains, and afterwards, sent to me, a pamphlet concerning Indian mounds. I have observed nothing of interest in that direction, until this fall. About five miles below Clinton, on the opposite bank of the river, is a large collection of mounds. In connection with a party from Davenport,

I visited them last month. The mounds  
are scattered, irregularly, over an area  
of a hundred acres, and some of them  
are of large size. By digging into  
several, we found a large number of  
very perfect skeletons, heads, and all other  
parts, in a perfect state of preservation.  
The skulls are, I suppose, typical of the  
"ground builders", face long and forehead  
very narrow. In each mound, that we  
opened, there was one large skeleton,  
one of which, we conjectured would  
measure seven feet, around it were  
clustered a large number of smaller  
skeletons, and some of them of quite  
young children. We found some fragments  
of pottery, but nothing besides of much  
interest. The bodies appeared to have  
been placed on the surface of the ground  
and the large heap of dirt raised over  
them. In one mound was found  
an enclosure of rough stone, six or seven  
feet square, within which, were the  
skeletons. The most perfect skulls and  
skeletons are in the possession of the



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"Natural History Society", at Davenport.  
The weather becoming cold, we did not  
pursue the investigation further.  
I have in my possession, some parts of  
skeletons, which I might send to you, if  
you deem it of sufficient importance.  
If, I will endeavor to procure for you, some  
more perfect remains, next summer. If  
you should make another Western tour,  
and will stop here, on your route, it  
would afford me, extreme pleasure, to show  
you the mounds, and render you any  
assistance, for your investigations.  
There are in this vicinity, numerous  
collections of mounds. But what seems  
to me, to be the peculiarity of these, is  
the perfect state of preservation, of their  
contents, being evidently buried in dry

river sand, on the crown of the hill,  
and along its base.

Very respectfully yours,

D. J. Farnsworth

Prof. O. C. Marsh,  
New Haven,  
Conn.