Canon City Colo
Jan. 6" 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I have been waiting some little time before making out the Dec. Statement, in order to hear from you in answer to a letter I wrote some three weeks since, but not receiving any think if you have written the letter may have been lost or miscarried

During the last cold and severe weather = about the worst ever known here = I have depended mostly on others to carry and bring my mail - for I have not yet fully gotten over the severe cold taken when I was getting of the fossils - and I dare not run the risk of taking more cold while such weather

lastō and this may account for
the loss of letters if any have been
sent that I have not got-

In one of your
last letters that I received, you
cautioned me not to attempt to go
over so much ground another year
in order that I might be able to
do better and more thorough work.

It may be at times
we have been too anxious to do a
certain piece of work in a given
time - and if this is so it may
be partly due to the fact - that we
thought if we were too long in removing
any particular bone or skeleton
after the discovery was made known
to you through weekly reports - you
might think we were dilatory and
not attending to work as it should
be.

I felt in this way after a months close
work had been done around the sacrum

of Stegosaurus, and seeming ly had accomplished but little during the time, and finally when all the work on it was done - and it came out in so bad shape as to appear almost worthless to us - we felt as though a good part of the time on it had been wasted, and perhaps hurried on other work to make up for lost time.

Later on however and when we resumed work on Allosaurus, I determined to go slow - made all the preparations possible to take out what remained of the skeleton in as good condition as it could be after so long exposure to Winter frosts and Summer rains - by clearing off plenty of ground above for working room, and by working down the top rock as far down and close to the bones as safely would permit

From the time this

first block of that skeleton was
removed till the last was taken
out. I sat myself to every move
made and every flew struck on
it- had platforms made- covered
with burlap cloth, to receive all
the blocks and fragments as they
were removed- placed and replaced
them many times in position- made
and remade maps and diagrams
of all the different groups and blocks,
used all the devices I could think of to se locate
all the parts and fragments that
I got the whole so fixed in my mind
it would haunt me in my sleep
and as I have said before; think I
could put together again by moonlight.

Taking all things
into consideration if the work done
on this last job is not called fair
and passable- I shall be disappointed,
and shall have to study up new
methods and devices for future work.

The work of removing

fossils from this quarry calls for a vast amount of ability skill and patience, sometimes more than I possess - and is like ~~to~~ dislodging an enemy from some strongly fortified position - only there the more damage done the better the work - while here we must take the fortress and all belonging with it without a scratch.

I have thought of this several times of late while working around and trying to find a weak point to get out - Some large dorsal vertebrae of the same series a ver. A:- a large cervical packed in Box 49 that belongs to a Brontosaurus as I believe.

The vertebrae lay in very bad shape to get out - the top portion being in hard rock, the middle (vertically) from four to six inches in a soft and rotten streak that comes between

the layers of rock while the bottom part of the vertebrae are bedded in harder firm rock again

The mass will not split down through the whole vertebrae - only to and into the rotten streak which crumbles up so badly that it is next to useless to try to do much with them.

I knew the series belongs with Cervical A. mentioned above and when on examination if you should find them to be of no great value - had I not better let them go and put on the work where it will be of more advantage!

I shall put in all the work I can myself when the weather is favorable - have a lot of rock to work over for small bones &c - and a little East of where Skull No. 4 lay is some easy working ground already stripped where I took out the

humerus of a Elegosaurus last year and where I expect to find more of the same Skeleton - which may yet lead to something valuable.

As soon as the weather softens down - so that I can work without taking cold I will do what I can towards keeping the work along,

Respectfully Yours

W. P. Felch

Canon City Colo

Jan 10th 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir.

Have just recd your
Card saying the lists & Contents of
boxes had not been recd by you.
Was greatly surprised & annoyed -
for I sent them together with a map
on Sunday the 14th of Dec. last. They
were carefully wrapped (two rolls)
in strong manilla paper - labelled
with official pasters - and it does
not seem possible that both could
have miscarried. Is it not possible
they have not been overlooked there?
I will send a telegram
that you may find Skull & ~~Jaw~~ the
jaw of Diplodocus - Boxes 10 & 11 - and
will send on another list - Soon. M. P. Felch

Canon City Colo

Janry. 14" 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I send on another list to-day of Contents of boxes, this time by Registered mail.

The other and first one was sent off, on Sunday the 14" of December last, together with a map of the seasons work.

Both were securely wrapped in strong paper and tied with twine. The map was rolled on a piece of broom-stick about two feet in length.

The parcels should have got there before the 20" and it does not seem possible they

could be lost when directed so plainly.

I hope the list of contents will turn up - for in addition to the list I wrote out some explanations on the marks and diagrams of Skeleton ?, (Allosaurus) that were fresh in my mind then, that I do not readily recall just now.

I also wrote a letter at or near the same time - stating the list had been sent - and I think it was in the same letter I made a request for some pamphlets - to put in book form - as you suggested the same to me when you were here.

The formation that the bird jaw (?) was found, is in the Cretaceous No. 3 - under and below the Yellow chalk - Exactly in the same layer of sandstone that comes in the massive white limestone - that you pointed out where you had taken out an Oyster from a rock that had tumbled down the hill near the Creek. Respectfully W. P. Fleck

P. S. 15th Dec.

After waiting two days for the worst storm of the season to subside I came in to-day to mail duplicate contents of boxes, and find your telegram of the 13" with information that those sent were received all right. Am glad you got them - and will not mail the last ones

M. R. Felch

Canon City Colo.
Febr. 10" 1885.

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I seem to have had a little cross luck in getting off my letters lately - wrote on the 1st of the month with Jan. Statement - and then started off on our prospecting trip - with orders to have the letter mailed by the first chance.

Got home on Friday last and found it had not been sent - packed the specimens - and wrote another letter that night - sent the box Saturday but forgot the letter and did not discover the mistake till to-day - So will send this by special to morrow.

The specimens sent in the box came from up the creek several miles above.

If you remember when you were here I told you that I thought some of the formations in that vicinity belonged to the Silurian or Devonian - and as you wished me to get the lay and thickness as near a possible of some of the different formations hereabouts this Winter I got Smith to go with me and we explored that portion from which the specimens came from pretty thoroughly.

There is one section marked on the diagram (in box) where the fossils are found is full of Coral - in which the Halysites are most abundant.

It is also in this Coral formation where all our Caves are found.

I believe that this portion of rocks that we call Silurian are from 1000 to 1500 feet in this section

Between the top of these rocks (Silurian) and the coarse Conglomerates of the Triassic there seems to be two distinct formations - the combined thickness not over 60 feet - One of these is marked on the map. "Magnesian". The whole thickness about 20 feet is made up of partly of limestone that is streaked and variegated - what is called here marble. the rest of the thickness is a hard Sandstone - all of which lays conformably over the Silurian for several miles in extent.

The next formation above this is about 40 feet thick and is a fine grained, dark red - solid and massive sandstone - almost as hard and looks like real granite - at the bottom - gets lighter toward the top and is there very thinly laminated.

It is in the bottom of this or top of the magnesian we could hardly tell which - that the specimens you examined last Summer came from - the Brachiopods you said were from the Carboniferous. A small

Specimen was sent in the box of the same kind. There is a great abundance of these in this Strata and here is the last sign of any organic life till we get up into the Jurassic. It is just above the thinly laminated Red Sandstones spoken of that the coarse Conglomerates of the Triassic begin.

This is as far as our explorations went - sometime we may take in the the rest above, which are much easier to get a good view of. Such briefly is the outline of the rocks as well as I am able to make them out - and you may be able with this and the Specimens sent to get a general idea of what there is here.

Smith thinks now that he will be ready to go to work by the 1st of Apr.

Respectfully W. P. Tyler

Canon City Colo.
Feb. 1st 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh
In M. P. Felch Dr.
To work for Jan. 1885 $15.00

Recd check for above account
Feb. 29th 85.
M. P. Felch

Canon City Colo.
Feb. 13" 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

Yours of the 4th inst. I recd yesterday. I am somewhat disappointed at the turn matters have taken and it going to come hard on me in one or two particulars.

I had made arrangements about the ranch so as to have the care of that off from my mind - and have ordered quite a large bill of fruit trees to be paid for on delivery in April - depending on the work for money to meet the obligations.

Had I known it a month sooner I should have avoided engaging the fruit trees - as I dont like to get in debt or hire money during the present hard times, and stringency in money matters.

I suppose that I had better pick up the loose ends and peck away in the buildings and await future developments or better times.

As far as the other help, and Smith in particular is concerned it will make no difference, for as to a choice he had rather not work this season than to work.

I will make arrangements in Coeur de Alene so that Mr. Grant can find us without trouble and show him over our vicinity and give him all the information that I can

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Filer

Canon City Colo.
Mar. 4" 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

Yours of Feb. 22" with check for $15.00 was recd - a receipt for the same is enclosed.

I will not make out any more statements for time, till some definite understanding as to future work is arrived at,

It seems also that if the "Quarry" is to be held safely it will either have to be proved up on according to filings - or entered as a Homestead - and I do not know as it is worth the trouble and expense. I thought at one time of using my soldiers right - and enter it as an "Adjoining Homestead" but there is not tillable land enough on it to pay.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch

Canon City Colo
Mar. 16" 1885

Prof. Marsh.

Dear Sir

When I last wrote I was ill, suffering from rheumatism, I had a good deal to trouble and annoy me, and was so discouraged generally I thought it mattered but little how things went - but now seeing away out with a little help, I wish To explain the situation fully, perhaps as much for your interest as mine.

Webb, who worked for me last season - and who is another Caliban - has a pre-emption claim of forty acres, that is shown, as is also my original claim of 160 acres on the enclosed map.

This claim of Webbs, has been owned and transferred now by five different parties - none of whom, have

ever made final proof- but have "quit claimed", one to another, each one in his turn filing on it as a pre-emption.

Situated as this claim is, with my best titlable ground on two sides - and with their dwellings close up in the corner that sets into my claim - I have always during the cropping season been a sufferer from the invasion of stock, pigs, and poultry - besides having to allow a right of way for roads water &c across my land.

I have at different times tried to purchase this piece of ground so as to be rid of the nuisance, and have offered more than the ground was worth to me on that account - but none of the parties would ever prove up on it so as to give a warranty deed - and I did not wish to use my Homestead right to so little purpose - as to buy that and pay all it was worth and then

have to prove up on it myself for it would be as good as throwing my Homestead right away - and my right is worth more than that of most - for having served in the army 3 years, 10 months, and 12 days that time would be deducted from the usual term of five years - leaving me but a little more than one year before I could make a final proof on any land that I should enter as a Homestead. This short time makes a vast difference in the value of the right. To go back a little.

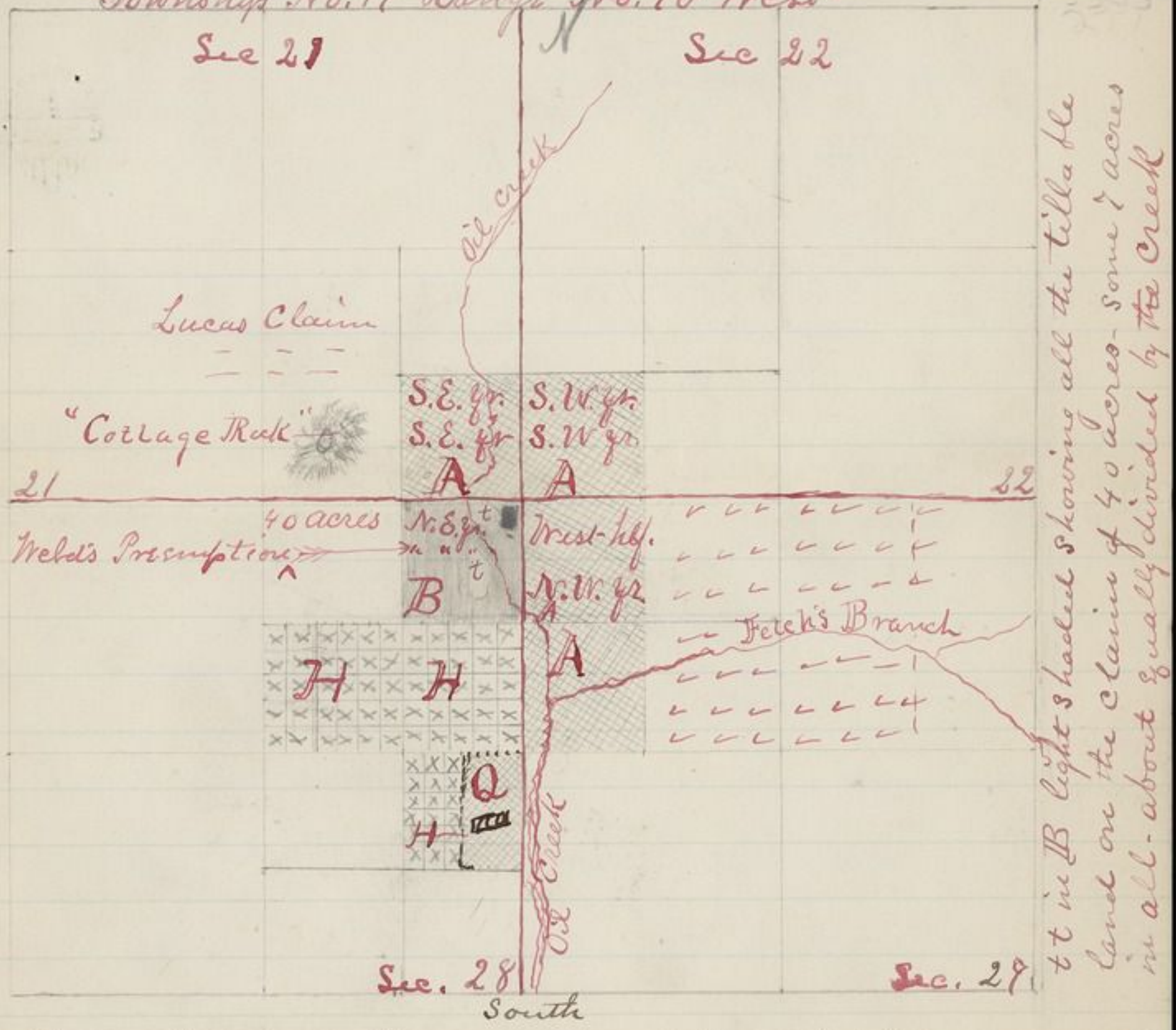
When I first went to work on the fossils a year ago last spring Wild did not like it - because I did not give him a job - and done all that he could to annoy me - and it was on his account that I had to enter the fossil beds as a "Placer Claim", as he could have easily changed his filings to have taken in as you will see by the map all of that

ground. Now this placer claim filing
dont now and never did amount
to a straw if it was looked into, as
against a Homestead filing, and
Field Knows it, and in fact, and in
justice too as I believe. Everything
here in the West- under Teller's rulings
have to give away to the Homestead
Settler. Well, to keep the peace last
year I set him to work - and it is only
fair to say - that he done his work
very well - but as soon as I told him
there would be no work before July, if
then he got to annoying me again
with prospect of plenty of trouble ahead.
I stood it till
last week - when for the first time in my
life, I went to a Lawyer for advise - and
then only To find that I had better buy
him out if possible as the best way to
end the matter - so I went this morning
and he has agreed to sell the claim
as it is for four hundred dollars - one

half down - the balance with interest at the end of one year - giving a quit claim and possession when the first payment is made.

This is more than it is worth, but it is the best I can do and under the circumstances may be well enough - and the proposition I want to make to you is - That if you will send me two hundred dollars ($200.) to make this first payment - I will then enter that claim of Wild's 40 acres, ~~also~~ marked B on map - also the two squares marked H×××&C - the half square H and the half square Q on which is the present working ground for bones - and on which the cabins are situated - making 160 acres in all - this I will enter as my Homestead - and give you a lease for as long a time as you wish, to enter upon any and all of these tracts - excepting B for the

purpose of digging fossils
On the balance
I can get my own security and
pay when due at any rate the
land cannot be held for the debt
after once being surrendered and
taken as my Homestead.
It seems to
me the proposition is a fair one
if you wish to continue the work
at any future time. You know
if it had not been for me there
it would have been worked by
other parties long ago. and though
I might get on surveyors now
and prove up according to law
as a "Placer Claim" the Survey,
advertising &c would cost even
more than two hundred dollars.
I wish you would
write as soon as you get this
or telegraph yes or no for
though Wheat says he will wait
two weeks for me to raise
the money the sooner it can
be done the better and as
for trying to get a dollar here
now when people are frightened
almost to death by the Silver
bugbear, it is out of the question
and I shall not even make
an attempt to do so
Plean let me know
as soon as possible
Respectfully Yours
M. P. Field



A-A &c Original Pre-emption of M. P. Felch Sec's-21-22-27.
B - Claim by Preemption, of E. L. Webd - no title acquired. Forty (40) acres - N. E. yr. of N. E. yr. Sec. 28

Q. Quarry - Placer claim by M. P. Felch 1884

H-H××× &c. Vacant ground; proposed Homestead claim of M. P. Felch - to be taken in connection with Webd's claim and the "Fossil" claim to make 160 acres.

Form No. 45.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

NIGHT MESSAGE.

The business of telegraphing is subject to errors and delays, arising from causes which cannot at all times be guarded against, including sometimes negligence of servants and agents whom it is necessary to employ. Errors and delays may be prevented by repetition, for which, during the day, half price extra is charged in addition to the full tariff rates.

The Western Union Telegraph Company will receive messages to be sent without repetition during the night, for delivery not earlier than the morning of the next ensuing business day, at reduced rates, but in no case for less than twenty-five cents tolls for a single message, and upon the express condition that the sender will agree that he will not claim damages for errors or delays or for non-delivery of such messages happening from any cause, beyond a sum equal to ten times the amount paid for transmission; and that no claim for damages shall be valid unless presented in writing within thirty days after sending the message.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery, the sender hereby guaranteeing payment thereof.

The Company will be responsible to the limit of its lines only, for messages destined beyond, but will act as the sender's agent to deliver the message to connecting companies or carriers, if desired, without charge and without liability.

THOS T. ECKERT, General Manager. NORVIN GREEN, President.

Receiver's No.	Time Filed.	Check.

Send the following night message, subject to the above terms, which are hereby agreed to. } March 24th 1885

To M. P. Felch
Cañon City, Colorado.

Yes, if nothing better can be done. ~~See~~ await letter mailed today.

O C Marsh

Paid
Govt rate.

BE READ THE NOTICE AND AGREEMENT AT THE TOP.

YALE COLLEGE MUSEUM,

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

March 24 1883.

Dear Mr Felch,

Yours of 16th inst. came duly, but the matter you mentioned was a difficult one to decide, & I telegraphed you to await my letter of today.

I should like much to oblige you in getting rid of a troublesome neighbor, who also covets the fossil ground, and I will do what I can. I enclose a check for $200 as you request, and I will

leave you to use your best judgement in the use of it.

I can have the quarter-section set off as a reservation, or withdrawn from sale, by the Land Office, if it is necessary to secure the fossils to the U. S. Geolog. Survey, but this might take some weeks, or more, time.

I shall have no trouble about this at Washington, and can thus protect myself, but if you think by the plan you propose, you will be enough better off, you may use the check and I will arrange with you later about the return for it.

Of course I have no authority to spend any government money in that way, and I send the check as a personal accommodation to you. I certainly want you to keep full control of the quarry rather than any one outside.

As soon as I have funds from the Survey, I will let you start work. Just now I have not a dollar.

Yours very truly,

O. C. Marsh

5310

Canon City Colo.
Mar. 27th 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

Your letter of the 20th and telegram of the 24th came to-day. I also received your check for $75. on Feb. 26th a few days since for which a receipt is inclosed.

The matter referred to in my last remarks as when I wrote; we are waiting for your letter in regard to it which I shall expect to-morrow or next day.

The foot bones - "Dump of 85," I was quite sure when I found them would prove to be the missing ends of the United metatarsals - but Smith thought there was too much of them, especially the middle one to belong with the pair sent in June - So I only marked and described them as possibly belonging

out on those sent on before

These were found by me sometime after you were here - down in the gulch some distance below where we worked over the dumps in the spring, and were in the wash of the flood of Aug. '83 showing the rock that contained these ends to have been dumped over at least two months before the skull and skeleton were discovered - as there was no time after that - the rocks could have got so far down.

I think when you come to work out all the foot bones sent on from last season's work, with the single exception of Ceratosaurus - you will get a far better collection than ever sent on last year. or rather the year of 1883.

I believe there are many good specimens left in the old quarry (No 1) though it will be some more work To get them out on account of chipping off - and also that when No 2 is developed it will turn out as to quantity and variety as much as

No. 1 here. Both quarries were one originally - with the same basin, depression, or "river bed" passing through from the N.E. to the S. W. or in that general direction.

I will send on some of those shells soon, as good specimens as we have on hand - and as soon as the ground dries out will dig for more.

They seem to come in beds - at least - where there were found there were two beds several feet apart - with perhaps a bushel in each - and my children have found float - ones in several other places but always in about the same horizon.

Our weather is most abominable. no doing anything with comfort at any time, and I have been glad that your friend Mr. Grant has not been here. for his impressions of our boasted climate would have been anything but - pleasant and agreeable.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch

Canon City Colo
Mar 20th 1885

$15.00

Recd of Prof. O.C. Marsh
Seventy five dollars for work
for Feb. 1885

M. S. Felch

Canon City Colo
Mar. 30" 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I will mail the specimens of shells tomorrow.

They are as good an average lot as we can find; came from several localities as will be found on descriptive list in box.

Yesterday my wife and children, while coming up from Canon were taking a hunt for shell specimens along through the Cretaceous below, and run on to quite a lot of fossils in the "Yellow Chalk."

They brought home a lot of fragments of vertebrae and other bones, a few specimens of which are sent in the box.

They are evidently Reptile of some description

Respectfully. M. P. Felch

I have used the last of the pasting labels

P. S. Mar. 31"

I have just recd your Reg. letter with Check for $200,00.

I will use it and satisfy you for it in some way. I am greatly delighted - as it will help me out without more trouble.

In haste

M. P. Flagg