

Oxford Miss., Jan. 9, '68

Prof. J. D. Dana

Dear Sir,

The inclosed article explains itself - will you please give it a place in your next number? And please have a hundred struck off on separate slips for me.

Do not suppose that I am lying idle here, or have nothing to say. On the contrary, I have so much matter on hand that I am afraid it would be too much for the Journal, save in abstract; viz. the results of a geological expedition to South Louisiana, a very interesting complement to the geology of Miss. They cannot well go without vouchers in the shape of sections, & these I fear would crowd you too much. Are

you very much crowded at present?
The Smithsonian has "stood" my
expenses in this expedition; but I
do not precisely see in what form it
can publish the results, unless they
were "rounded off" by another trip.

I have now seen & studied the central
portion of the great Orange Sand delta
on ^{the} shores of the gulf, where it still
retains the same general features; and
a close comparison of its well known features
with those of the present Mississippi de-
posits has satisfied me more than ever of
the correctness of my previous conclusions as
to its mode of formation, and derivation. And
I have also found the seaward end - the
Cypress swamp and lagoon formations, which
terminate the great "Bluff" formation of the
basin of the Mississippi. It turns out
that the changes of level which have occurred
since the deposition of that formation, have
exceeded greatly the minimum which my

previous obs. had established, having amounted
to not less than 180 ft. on the gulf shore.

Finally, the Petite Ance Salt was
out to be "ante-diluvian", i.e. older
than the Orange Sand, by which it is
overlaid. I presume that it must be
'contemporaneous with the marine strata
pierced in the New Orleans Artesian
Wells, on which Conrad & myself have been
busy for some time without definite results,
in consequence of the existing deficiencies in
our knowledge of the fauna of the gulf of
Mexico.

I wish very much I could carry my
observations farther into the country between
Red & Sabine rivers, where I am confident
the problem of the age of the great Tertiary?
coast formation, the "Grand Gulf group", could
be solved. But the wretched condition of af-
fairs here gives little promise of such a chance.
Hoping to hear from you, I remain
Very truly yours
Eug. M. Hilgard.

E. W. Hilgard Map Seal.

Prof. Marsh 1868

Oxford Miss., Jan. 2, 1869

Prof. O. C. Marsh.

Dear Sir,

I have read in the Journal, with great interest, your obs. on the remarkable phase of development, by which a member of the "genus" *Suidon* is transformed into "Aublystoma". If I am not mistaken, I made the acquaintance of the ambiguous animal in question at Chicago.

Probably you have heard, when a bill has passed your legislature in due form, the Speaker wind up thus:—"The bill is passed. Question as to the title of the bill. Shall the title of the bill stand as it is?"

It is the last chance for any one to peck at it; and I will play the objector

in this case. I think your title is too modest, and reminds me of a quaint remark made by Alex. Braun, when Dr. Engelmann asked him whether (as my brother has since shown to be the case) "he thought it possible that Fresh Water Algae could be transformed into mosses". Braun replied that "genera (!) of fresh-water algae had been known to pass into each other" (good for Darwin!) "but that classes couldn't possibly!"

I think my friend and cousin got just the answer his question deserved. *Arades auto!* But this coarction of divisions based upon merely diagnostic distinctions, in the organic world, is being carried to such an absurd extent, that I rejoice whenever one of these fictitious monsters with an abbreviated name stuck to it, is exploded. In chemistry, even now, no one dares to baptize his latest "substance", until, by the

observation not only of its physical properties, but of its development, i.e. decomposition, he has proved that he knows it, and that it is really distinct. In botany and zoology (and palaeontology, as I can testify to my sorrow), on the contrary, it has been the practice to give a new name to whatever seemed distinct, for the time being, and "auctores" were satisfied when they had manufactured "a word to believe in", as Mephistopheles hath it.

Of course, it is unpleasant for the god-fathers of "genera, orders and classes" to have them demolished. Therefore let us of the younger generation beware of hasty name-giving, so that we may seek unity instead of diversity, without exposing ourselves to disagreeable recantations, for truth will out, at last!

Yours very truly

Eug. M. Hilgard.

P.S. Thanks for the pamphlet containing your paper.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Berkeley, November 4, 1891.

Prof. O. C. Marsh, New Haven.

My dear Sir,

Referring to our conversation regarding some one to write my brother's memoir, I have had some correspondence and talk with those who ought to know better than I, living at such a distance, who would be likely to be willing to serve impartially and friendly in the matter. Unfortunately my letters have been long in reaching, hence I have delayed writing to you to the last, perhaps too much.

The two persons suggested are, first, Agassiz, to whom I have written, but too late to receive a reply as to whether he is able and willing; if so he will tell you when asked. The other, who I think would be willing, and specially acceptable to Mrs. Hilgard, is Fairman Rogers. Him I do not know personally and have not written to; if you decide to appoint him please say to him on my part that I shall take it as a great favor if he will accept, adding this to many obligations we owe him on behalf of my brother. Of course, whoever is named will have my earnest cooperation in gathering the needful data; the trouble is that I have lived at such a distance from him during most of his career that I have only hearsay and a few letters as my personal contribution for that period.

I am sorry that meetings of the Academy always occur at times when my duties would prevent me from attendance even if I were near enough. I hope next time however to be represented by a paper at least - until now I have been too hard pressed with detail work to write anything presentable.

Sincerely yours

E. M. Hilgard

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Berkeley, February 10, 1892.

Prof. O. C. Marsh, New Haven.

My dear Sir,

Upon receiving your letter relative to my appointment to write my brother's memoir, I immediately set to work to canvass the chances of getting some one else to undertake the work, as - especially under the peculiar conditions of the case in some respects - I thought ^{it} more than usually unsuitable for a near relative to write the biography.

I have now exhausted the venire of persons whom I can very well ask to undertake the task, and so finally conclude to accept the appointment and act as nearly judicially as I can.

It will be impossible for me, however, to have the memoir ready for the April meeting of the Academy, as I am preparing for a year's absence in Europe and am crowded with work needed to be done before I leave. It may be that I will have to defer the completion until I reach Europe and can shove off the overwork that is now besetting me. On my way I may visit New Haven (in summer) and if so hope to see you there among others of the ancien regime.

Truly yours

E. M. Hildreth

Paris, March 9, 1893.

Prof. O. C. Marsh, New Haven.

My dear Sir,

I inclose herewith the Ms. of the memoir of my late brother, written at Berlin under some disadvantage as to sources of information, but still I think correct as far as it goes. Having been cut off from communication during the critical time of the war, and having seen little of him since, I have been obliged to leave that period in a rather unsatisfactory shape. I trust that, in radiating the dead, I have given no just cause of offense to any one living. Cleveland himself cannot be held responsible for the rude action of the Treasury officials.

I have sent a duplicate copy of the memoir to the widow, asking her to communicate to you any possible errors of fact, for correction before reading. As for printing, I will probably be in time to read the proofs when I arrive at N.Y., about the last week of May. But for the case that I should not, may I ask you to have 100 extra copies of the memoir, & action taken thereon, struck off for me? of course at my expense.

Please inform me of receipt of this by card or letter addressed to "pr. Adr. Frau Hofrath Pfitzer, Heidelberg."

Sincerely yours

E. W. Hilgard

P.S. I will send on a "list of papers" later.