

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Denmark, Iowa, Oct. 31, 1895.

Prof. O. S. Marsh,
Yale University,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

I am making a report for the U. S. Geol. Survey, on the loess and glacial deposits of Illinois. Among other matters I should like to discuss the fauna of the loess.

I was informed some two years ago by the late William Le Alms of Alton, Illinois, that he had disposed ^{to you} of a collection of mammalian remains obtained from the loess in the vicinity of Chester and Alton, Illinois. I should like to inquire whether you have yet examined them and if so are the results published? I should be glad to get any information concerning them which you may be able to furnish.

I find in Worthen's last geological report (Geol. of Illinois, Vol. VIII, pp. 8 and 9) a brief reference to Mr. Le Alms's collection. It is there stated that it embraces the bones of the Mastodon, Mammoth, Megalonax, Bos primigenius, Castoroides ohioensis and several species of rodents, some of which belong to ~~the~~ ^{ex} first species. In my conversation with Mr. Le Alms I learned that his collection embraced teeth as well as bones. The collection seems to be a rather unusual one and I am in hopes it has been ex-

mined and reported upon so that I may have opportunity to discuss it in my report.

I should be glad to know also if any other mammalian remains from the loess have come to your notice. I know of but ~~one~~^{two} other instances in the Mississippi valley; that of the teeth, bones and molars of Cervus ussatinensis, found at Muscatine, Iowa and reported by Mr. McGee in the Eleventh Annual Report of the U.S. Geol. Survey, p. 471; and the tusk, molars, and some bones of Elephas prineanus, found at Davenport, Iowa, announced by Mr. W.H. Pratt, in the Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Sciences, 1876, pp. 96-99.

Very respectfully,

Frank Leavitt.