

Answer
early as they
are likely to be
sent off to Germany

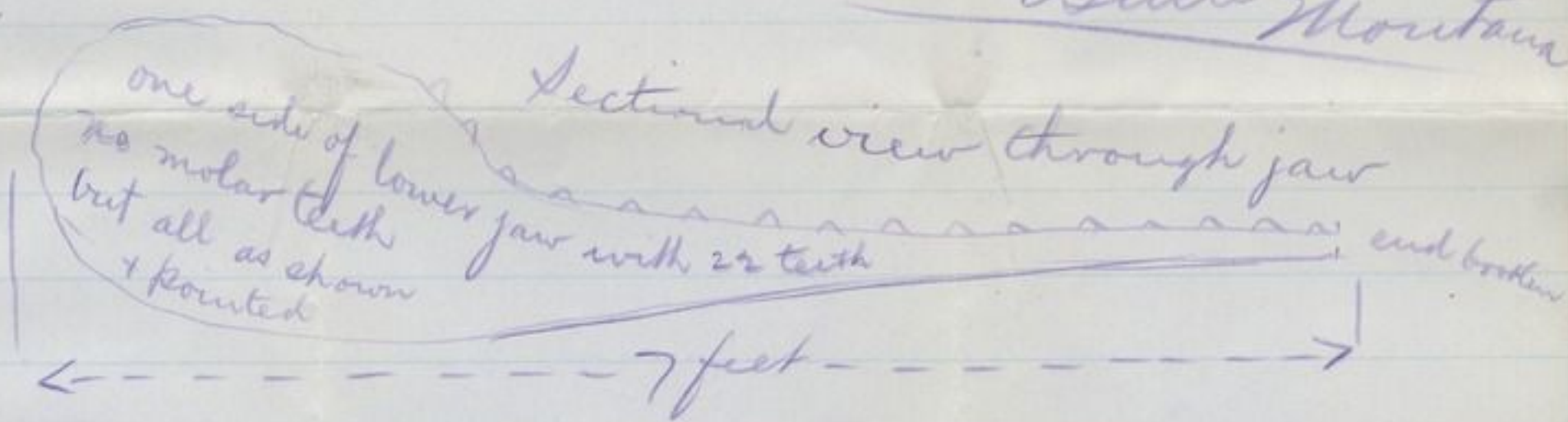
13993

Butte Mont
Decr 20th 1882

Prof Marsh
Yale College

I saw to day some
remains of a mammoth creature
probably "Plethysaurus" found in
the mountains adjacent consisting
of the lower jaw with ^{2 rows} teeth, and
two ribs of an immense animal.
The rib bones are 9 ft long following
the curve, and the jaw is 7 feet
long but broken off at the point or would
be a foot longer, with teeth of almost
uniform small size round & pointed
& about an inch or inch & a half
apart. The structure is bone & the
finder saved the jaw in two lengths
for convenience in carrying. The
remains are not fossilized & the bony jaw
as shown by the saw cut is quite solid

I have an idea that this is a
 very rare specimen in this country
 I would like to know what you
 will give for the specimens packed &
 loaded on the cars here. I will try
 to outline them below. Reply to
 W Read
 Butte Montana



here sawn

This an attempt at top view of jaw. the teeth are
 very white & the whole thing in a good state of
 Preservation perfect.

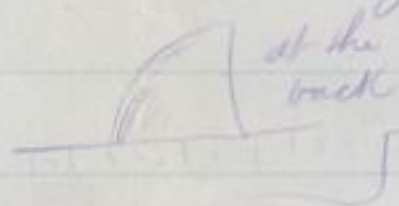
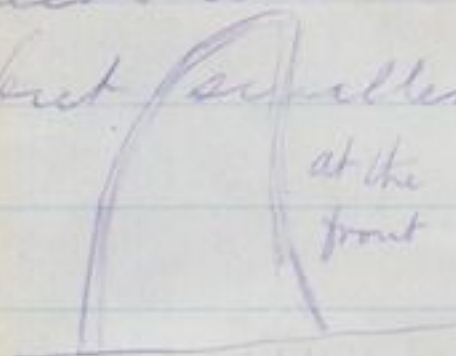
The 2 ribs also, 9 ft long are very

Butte MT

Dec 21/82

Prof Marsh
Yale College
S. C.

The enclosed slip is from the local paper this morning, and imperfectly describes the remains. There is considerable cartilage on the upper side of the jaw, and it is pliable & can be chewed to a pulp and has quite a meaty taste. There are two ribs although the paper mentions but one. The teeth are largest near the front & very white but smaller towards the jaw socket, about the



size & shape as here shown

with an entire absence of double or grinder teeth, and they have a curve towards the throat. The party now in possession is a German & has sent a description to his brother a professor at Heidelberg who he thinks will buy them, so if you desire to secure them it will be well to act early.

I wrote you also
yesterday

Very Respectfully
Wm Read

THE ICHTHYOSAURIAN.

The Skeleton of a Monster Reptile Found.

A wagon was wandering along the streets, yesterday, and in it the driver said that he had some bones which had been found in the Belt range, but just where did not seem to know. It is to be deplored that the resting place of these bones is not known and the entire skeleton recovered, for the portions now exhibited prove that they are portions of an enormous inhabitant of the deep, a gigantic reptile, the Ichthyosaurian. The lower jaw and one of the ribs are now on exhibition. The jaw bone is in an excellent state, the cartilage is still on the bones and appears to have been hacked with some sharp instrument. The bone is as solid and white as if the animal had been dead only a few months, instead of thousand years. The jaws have been divided their full length to facilitate transportation. When placed together the shape resemble a pair of glove stretchers and measure from tip point to socket six feet and a half. *7 feet*

At the point, the jaw is but four inches, and twelve and a half inches in circumference; but gradually increases until at the middle it measures fifteen inches, and where the bones separate, 23 inches just span it. From this point to the tip is over four feet, and the upper side is lined with two rows of teeth in a ditch socket. The teeth are perfect.

The teeth being retractile like a snake's all food was swallowed by constriction, and as this would require very light jaws, these are consequently very thin, and at the socket are fifteen inches in breadth. The mouth, as will be understood, is very large. If the jaws could be expanded their full length a tall man could stand in the mouth when open, it being large enough to swallow a steer.

The rib is from the left side, and from the forward curve of the floating end proves that it is about the fifth or sixth rib back of the head, and just in front of the left fore-shoulder. It is nearly nine feet in length, and is eleven inches in circumference, being five wide and two thick. It was attached to the back bone by a socket joint, which would admit of the neck bending in all directions. As this rib was only in the neck, and the body being large in proportion to the neck, the reptile would measure around the centre of the body fifty or sixty feet. As there are about forty vertebrae, and each averages at least 18 inches, the length of the body, including the head, would be nearly 70 feet, and the tail with its vertical fin is longer than the body, the size of this delicate animal is astounding. Think if a creature one hundred and forty feet in length, with a body as large as a pioneer cabin, and plenty of room to hold twenty head of choice beeves, and a mouth equal to the supply, should come waddling down Main Street on its four tremendous flippers. It would nearly fill the street, and be a block in length, and as high as a second story window. Its age would preclude all competition in priority of settlement on the part of the "old timer," and its size would discount Admiral Blake's sea snake.