

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Cambridge, Mass. May 24, 1892.

My Dear Prof. Marsh:

Returning from a journey I find two telegrams from you urging me to send despatches to members of the Lower House, asking to have the appropriation for paleontology reinserted in the Bill. I have not complied with your request for the reason that I have tendered my help by telegram, letter or in person to the Major and to Gilbert, saying to them that I should be glad to act in the time and in the manner which seemed best and have been told in effect that at the right time and if occasion demanded I would be called on.

My own experience with legislative crises shows me that irreparable harm may be done by the best meaning persons interfering with plans. More than once I have been brought to the verge of calamity by such well meant but misdirected endeavors.

I hold myself ready to go to Washington on a day's notice. Basing my opinion on conjecture I am inclined to believe that the plan will be to endeavor to secure a proper consideration of the matter in the Senate leaving it to the conference Committee to deal with the other wise minded House.

Yours most truly,

J. S. Shaler