

2329 N. Calvert St. Baltimore Md.

Dec. 9. 1898.

Prof. O. C. Marsh;

Dear Sir,

A letter
just-received from Mr. Fred. Chase
gives me my first information
of the trouble you are having with
Dr. J. P. Haskins in getting possession
of Mrs. Maxwell's collection. I hope
I have the means to help you out
of the difficulty - namely the agree-
ment between said Haskins and
H. M. Bradley.

It was supposed to be lost with the
list of specimens Dr. Haskins
rec'd at Rockaway when he first
took the collection in charge, but
upon examining ^(Mrs. Maxwell's) my sister's
papers this morning, I found it -
and also a clue which may lead
to the recovery of the lost list.

17182
It was at one time loaned to Prof.
F. H. Wegner formerly of Denver but at
last accounts some where on the Pacific
Coast. He thought he might induce
the schools of Denver to buy the collec-
tion but failed to do so and Mrs. Bruce
thinks failed to return the list of
specimens which Dr. Haskins then had.

I shall immediately send a
letter in search of him, and there
is a bare possibility he may be able
to return the missing paper.

As by the terms of the agreement
I can see no ground for Dr. Haskins
to prefer any claim for rent or
storage should he demand money
for repairs could you not offset
such a claim by one for damages?

From the enclosed card from
Mrs. Von Bulow, and from the account
given me when in Saratoga a
year ago last March by many of
the prominent citizens of that place
I have reason to believe the collection
was in good condition when first
placed upon exhibition at the Seltzer

17183

Building and also that it was larger than now. I know at the time of my sister's death she had a large number of birds and many valuable natural curiosities about which Dr. Haskins professes ignorance.

Possibly they may have been stolen out - I do not see why they should have been mentioned in the agreement if he never had possession of any such things - One thing is certain he told me himself that he sheared the antelope and deer - and a taxidermist in Saratoga told me he saw the collection moved and that the specimens were placed in express wagons driven by boys who were so careless with them that the eyes of some were picked up in the streets after they passed, and the ears and other more delicate parts were bent or broken.

Mrs. Brace paid, I think, \$200. for repairing the collection and moving it - to Saratoga.

I deeply regret the way in which the business has been

17184
suffered to remain and if
I can be of any assistance
either in rescuing it from
destruction or in carrying
out Mrs. Maxwell's ideas with
regard to the groups that still
remain I shall be only
too happy.

Sincerely Yours

Mary D. Thompson.