

New Haven, Oct. 22, 1871

My Dear Prof. -

Your letter from  
Hart Bridge arrived  
here some time before  
I did, but I staid  
away till into the  
term a couple of weeks.  
When I arrived there  
was not time to get  
a letter to you then,  
& as Van Name had written  
I have delayed until  
about the time to  
reach you in San Francisco.  
I presume that Van Name  
& others have written  
all the news of interest.

in regard to general matters, so I will only mention some particulars.

Van Name took the number of the boxes that had arrived a week or two ago, to send to you. None have come to hand since, though some must be long overdue. There were also freight bills to a considerable amount on those received, freight having been charged from St. Louis, by the Erie R.R. Co.

I gave the amounts to Van Name. Am glad you have succeeded so well hitherto & hope success will continue.

At Woods Hole we also had great success, making

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a very large & fine collection of  
Invertebrata & explaining the bathymetry  
thoroughly from the rocks & region within  
50 miles. Of fishes a very extensive  
collection was made, including 19 species  
new to the coast. Of sharks & rays we  
got nearly 20 species & hundreds of  
specimens, over 100 skins were prepared,  
& we are to have the second set of them,  
which will include a good representation  
of the sharks & rays of the coast. Also a  
good series of epla jaws. Tails &c.  
During vacation a young elephant  
was received from N.Y. in a very odorous  
state, but I have prepared a very

fine skeleton from it. I believe  
 it is all complete. A large askiech  
 arrived a few days ago & is now  
 soaking. Owing to the lateness  
 of my return I have been hard  
 pressed with work this term, having  
 both Geology & Zoology to teach, as well  
 as lots of extras. Williams has  
 been back here, dissecting turtles,  
 but he got married last week &  
 is now off for a few weeks on a tour.  
 Smith was very successful in his S.  
 Superior work.

Sincerely yours  
 A. E. Verrill

COPY.

NEW HAVEN, Sept. 21, '92.

Dear Sir:-

Your telegram and letter were duly received. My sympathy is entirely on your side. I have neither sympathy nor respect for the present head of the U. S. Fish Commission. He has held the place long enough to prove himself incompetent to fill the position with credit to himself or justice to the country and scientific public.

I have repeatedly been asked by those in high positions to make statements looking towards his dismissal, but I have considered that any quarrel or agitation might, as things have gone on, endanger the very existence of the Fish Commission, and so have declined to do anything adverse to him or it, till a more suitable occasion.

I have no personal quarrel, for the cessation of my connection with the Fish Commission was to me a great relief. Still I consider that he has been guilty of gross maladministration in throwing aside so large a part of the work and results of the investigations made during sixteen years under Prof. Baird's administration, at the cost of many hundreds of thousands of dollars and at the sacrifice of more than thirty years aggressive scientific labor (mostly not paid for.) To do that is equivalent to defrauding both the country and the scientific men concerned. I have evidence satisfactory to me that he did cast aside the work in progress at the time of Prof. Baird's death from personal and selfish motives. He seems to have imagined that it would not give him so much credit as it would Prof. Baird, and (as he wrote me) he preferred to go into "new and aggressive" lines of work.

Had he not previously promised me that all of Prof. Baird's plans would be carried out by himself, I should not have thought such a course so strange in a man of no more character than he has. I regard his work as worthless.

As you intimate, he has not the slightest claim to be a "scientific man". I doubt that he has ever had any great practical knowledge of the fisheries. Before his appointment to his present place, he was known chiefly for having made certain improvements in the methods of hatching and transporting young shad. His patent fishway may or may not be a humbug - there are various opinions.

If my aid or influence can be of any use to you in this matter, please inform me, and I will do what I can to advance the interests of the Fisheries and of Science by urging a change in the head of the U. S. Fish Commission.

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) A. E. VERRELL.

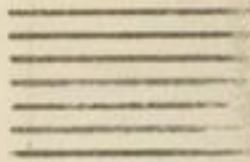
P. S. I presume that you are fully aware that most of the scientific men who urged Macdonald's appointment, did so because it was evident that it must be either him or Maj. Ferguson. Of the two, they objected to the latter most.

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JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,

Baltimore, Md.

Please return, if not called for in ten days.



*Recd. Nov. 5, 1892.*

*Prof. O. C. Marsh  
New Haven  
Conn.*