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Springfield Ill Feb. 26 / 71

Prof O. V. Marsh

Dear Sir

Presuming you have learned from telegraphic despatches something in relation to the burning of the Geological Rooms on last Wednesday night, I write you a few lines to let you know the full extent of our loss. The fire broke out in the adjoining building in the State Binder, and when my son Charlie who was sleeping in my office was awakened by the alarm - the whole of the adjoining building was a sheet of flames. By almost superhuman efforts of himself and two or three of his young friends who volunteered to assist him, they removed the whole of my Library and Private Collection before it became necessary for the

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engines to play upon the building. The State Collection was a good deal injured by water, but the greater portion of it was saved in a tolerably good condition. It has been removed into the basement of the new P. O. Building which is fire proof, and where it will probably remain until the new State House is completed.

I expect to have an office room in the upper part of the same building where my own collection will also be safe.

Fortunately my 4<sup>th</sup> Vol is to be bound under the old contract, and the sheets were in the old bindery, otherwise the whole edition would have been burned up. The loss to the State by the burning of the bindery will be quite heavy, as it necessitates the reprinting of a large amount of matter.

I hope to be able to send a Box of Books to New Haven in the course

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of a week or ten days including our set of the Reports and an additional copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vol for yourself.

Mr St John is still here and was married on Valentines day to Miss Marie Swift - of Manhattan Kansas.

With kind regards to all the friends in New Haven I remain  
Truly Yours

A. H. Worthen

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State Geologist's Office,

Springfield Ill. Mar 12 1871.

Prof O. C. Marsh  
Dear Sir

I have forwarded by Express to-day a box containing copies of the 4<sup>th</sup> vol. of the Ill. Geol. Reports, for all the scientific friends at Yale to whom the preceding volumes have been sent, and also an extra set of the 4 volumes to yourself as you requested.

The bill providing for publishing the 5<sup>th</sup> Volume is now hanging fire in the hands of the Finance Committee in the Senate, and I should feel greatly obliged to the scientists of Yale College if they would address a letter to Gov. Palmer expressing their views in regard to the value of the Report and the importance of completing its publication without unnecessary delay. The Governor knows very little

State Geologist's Office

Springfield, Ill. Nov. 11, 1871

Prof. C. C. Henshaw  
Dear Sir

I have forwarded by express to-day a box containing copies of the 4<sup>th</sup> vol. of the Ill. Geol. Report, for all the scientific friends of State to whom the forwarding addresses have been sent, and also an extra set of the 4 volumes to yourself as you requested.

The bill providing for publishing the 5<sup>th</sup> volume is now hanging fire in the hands of the Finance Committee in the Senate, and I should feel greatly obliged to the Scientist of State College if they would address a letter to Gov. Palmer expressing their views in regard to the value of the Report and the importance of completing its publication without unnecessary delay. The Governor knows very little

about science, but is exceedingly jealous of the reputation of the State, and I feel quite sure that if he could be made to realize that the suspension of this work now would be discredit to the State of Illinois, he would use all his influence in favor of the bill. I did not feel like troubling Prof. Dana with the matter, and therefore write you, and if you will draw up such a letter as the case demands and get the signatures of the Profs. Silliman and Dana, Bush Verrill and yourself, and forward at once to the Governor I shall feel under many obligations for it.

I wrote you after the fire, giving a correct account of our loss, which was comparatively small, and we are now secure from further danger from fire. Mr. St. John sends regards to you.

Truly Yours  
A. H. Northen

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State Geologists-office  
Springfield Ill Sept-9<sup>th</sup> 1874

Prof O. C. Marsh  
Dear Sir

When you were here at my office some two or three years since, you spoke of buying my collection when it should be offered for sale.

I intend to catalogue the collection during the coming winter, and shall then be prepared to dispose of it to any Institution that may be prepared to buy it. I am sorry to have it leave the State, but I see no prospect of the Chicago Academy's being in a condition to purchase it at present. If you still think favorably of the proposition please let me hear from you

Truly Yours  
A. H. Worthen

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

AND

H. J. OGLESBY, Governor.  
H. D. DEMENT, Secretary of State.  
R. EDWARDS, Supt. Pub. Instruction.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

A. H. WORTHEN, Curator.  
MISS FANNY FISHER, Secretary.

Springfield, Ill. Feby 14<sup>th</sup> 1887

Prof O. S. Marsh

Dear Sir

I shall close my connection with the State Museum the coming spring and my collection of American Palaeozoic fossils is for sale. It embraces over 800 types, and is undoubtedly the largest collection of typical forms in any private collection in this country.

If your Museum is in need of such a collection I should be glad to open negotiations with you in relation to it. In addition to what I call my type collection which is fully catalogued, and contains nearly 3000 species. I have about 100 drawers filled mainly with duplicates which I would dispose of separately if you could use them. The duplicate collection contains more than a thousand well preserved fish teeth and spines from the Carboniferous rocks and fully as many crinoids. If any of these things are desirable for your Museum I shall be pleased to hear from you.

Respectfully A. H. Worthen