

Ira Lucas to Cope regarding progress in his work and a contact with Felch:

of 4

Cañon City Colo. 10-13-1883

Prof. E.D. Cope

Dear friend

I have been thinking for some time that I ought to send you a report of some kind of what I am doing.

I have taken out over 25 Bones besides some small ones I have not counted. These have been taken out S. of Saurian Hill near the N. end of the South Twin Fort. There are 5 or 6 vert in one pile one or two of which are some like the rough sketch a. parts of all are badly decayed or gone and near by are several Caudal vert badly decayed & broken. These are somewhat like sketch b. I suppose that a part or all of these belong to Cam. Saur. As you had so much of this I thought that I had better defer work on them until I had heard from you.

I commenced work here because brother took out several good bones of Amphicoeleus & I was in hope of finding something of the kind you wanted and probably some new forms. And I think I have found some new forms. At least some of them are new to me. I will make & send you rough sketches of a few of them if I can get time to make them. I have set my man at work in the side of the bluff about 150 ft. N. of pit of Cam. Saur. Sup. No 2. where I found some pieces of a massive

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bone and part of a centrum. He has got into the marl far enough to find some pieces of rib & small pieces of bone I am in hope of finding something new and good.

I have at different times in passing a certain point after a hard shower picked up Centruns from 1¼" to 1½" long. & several fragments of other bones (these centruns were without processes) I had thought that perhaps they were turtle bones & of no particular value. But lately I had a little spare time in which I went & dug there & found a vert. almost perfect which I will mail to you & you can write whether I shall send what I have. And whether I shall work some more on it & see if I can find more. I think now that it is not a turtle and hope that it may prove to be something new.

If you would send me your Buletines & such plates as are issued of all newly found bones & reports of work for the U.S. I could probably better judge of the value to you of any bones I may find.

Marsh is sending Felch all such from time to time to aid him in his work. Felch has lately found bones of what he thinks is a new species. The humerus is about 2'-0" long and femur a little shorter it has strong claws. He is getting most most of the bones. They are hollow-joints large and well rounded- lengths of other bones I cannot give. I am about out of funds as I have had to pay as I went. mans wages and all. I hope that you can send me some means immediately- You remember that our contract requires payments from time to time. I commenced work July 26th & have worked more than 2 solid months. I have a splendid man

to work & would like to engage him for next summer if you want the work to go on

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Bone No3 is very much different from any vert. I have hitherto taken out. You see by sketch that ends of Diap. [?] are gone & also most of Centrum. You have a view of cap side-body of bone quite thin from front to back. I will not now take time to give sketch of side. I think I sent you a sketch of Bone No 4. which I think is the largest part of a pubis. Bone No12 was found lying next to No 13 & if it had ever been Coossified with it it had broken off at the joint. The processes of No 12 are not shown. No 13 is badly broken & very much of it gone.

Bone No 14 is quite peculiar in some respects. Ball is almost flat- a peculiar deep hole at base of N. Spine

No 15 is a very good specimen. entirely different from any I have found previously I give 2 views of this.

No 16 also is new to me. Loops [?] and processes are partially gone but enough are present to judge pretty well of former shape.

No 18 is quite good what there is of it. I also have a femur 5'-7" long and an Ischium I think- several Caudals. Another, a modification of No 23 - it is numbered 22, & several others. I have 3 Bones packed & hooped & and bones enough to fill 4 or 5 more bones & perhaps more of the ordinary size. I think without a doubt there are other places near here at which good bones can be found. Do you have any idea of sending a party to the western part of the state to procure fossils.

For the time I have worked

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I have obtained a large amount of bones, some of them are the Cam. Saur. Sup. But many of them are of other kinds.

The shells I enclose with the bones are from a hard limestone just under where I found the bone. Please write me what you call the animal from which this small bone came & also names of those the sketches of which I send.

Yours truly

Ira H. Lucas

Original in the archive at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

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