

A Agency

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

My dear Murphy

I hardly know how to express my feelings of regret at the action of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum in sending the name of Putnam to the Corporation, as Professor of Archaeology.

While fully realising the difficulties of the case and the peculiar relations of the Trustee to the University, I cannot help looking at his appointments as a distinct lowering of the standard of a scientific Partnership to the University. No one man ready to admit that Dan-

ton is a worthy teacher will stand in other words - and must be satisfied now to me and to you all in view of your considerable forbearance & good nature when faced to facing such bold & ignorant & arrogant, & well educated people like himself that make do that we get away with them as we do, unless we can't stand it longer & let him go. I don't see any other way of getting rid of him except by firing him. It would be hard before he has been here a year & a half to present him as a bad teacher & a bad man.

YODDOS AVITARAHMOOGO MUSEUM
28AM, 3001HMAS

Dear Mr. Curtis,
I had much pleasure to
see you yesterday morning
at the Adams all day office at
the time he was to forward
me your old & wanted specimens
of bivalves & cephalopods from
your collection of recent & fossil
specimens. After this
I am sure it is better off
done. I do not know if you
will want the specimens still
but they will be well and
the present condition is
unquestionable. I have
not yet examined them but a fish
and other & fossil material

The excellent qualities of Putnam
as a collector and as a Curator
are so I wish to detract in any
way from his devotion to the best
interest of the Peabody Museum.
But are you ready to reward ^{more} industry,
devotion by promotion to a
Superior ship above of all others,
requires that its incumbent
should have the most possible
culture? of his & to prevent upon
the ninth floor until American
archeology as it should be represented.
Surely the grounds on which this
recommendation is based have not
your sanction as representing the
highest interest of science and you
can not readily to place in Wm.
playeship a man of Putnam's

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caliber? The establishment of a
partnership does not give to either
Putnam's relation to the Peabody
Museum while it does not mean
as is so often the case no other
appointment - a dying plant.
There are no students or pupils
 clamoring for instruction and
 asking to have the machine kept
 going by the appointment of the
 best available man. The Museum
 will be as well taken care of by
 Putnam as Curator - and I cannot
 help feeling that such an appoint-
 ment is offering a premium to
 directed mortality and to a
 certain extent a mark of want of

~~The subject of my note below for
you will be given several summer
and autumn months to do
what I think you need
done before it is sent to me again.
I hope to get a good man to do
what needs to be done
but I am not at all anxious
about your getting a
man who has had some
experience with the machine.~~

(Signed)

Wm. D.

Adj'ted Augt 1870
J. M. Deane

YACOOS BY TARA MOODIE MUSEUM

CARIBBEAN

and have written to Mr. G. W. L. Smith
about your kind & thoughtful
letter. It is a subject I was thinking
about how will the slaves communicate
with him as it is not known
to me if he is to be retained, so
I hope you will let me know
as soon as possible what we will
do with him. It would be rather
the best thing for all I think
unless he is to be retained
for his services which were so good
and he has remained so much
since you sent him back yesterday. He
is considerably younger than I think
and so less difficult to find
a home. Please let me know

appreciation on the part of the
slaving Powers of the work
which is attempted here.

I have been perfectly frank
with you on this matter as I do not
wish to seem to you or to any other
member of the Committee to be acting
in an unwise hand way or my
opposition to their action.

Very truly
A. C. Bassett.

Ripon Reapay.
Caribbe.



Agassiz, Alexander. 1837. "Agassiz, Alexander undated." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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