



IMPORTANT GIFT TO YALE.

Professor Marsh Presents His Scientific Collections to the University.

At the meeting of the Yale Corporation, held on the 13th inst., O. C. Marsh, Professor of Paleontology, formally presented to the University the valuable scientific collections belonging to him, now deposited in the Peabody Museum. These collections, six in number, are in many respects the most extensive and valuable of any in the country, and have been brought together by Professor Marsh at great labor and expense, during the last thirty years. The paleontological collections are well known, and were mainly secured by Professor Marsh during his explorations in the Rocky Mountains. They include most of the type specimens he has described in his various publications. The collection of osteology and that of American archeology are also extensive and of great interest. The present value of all these collections makes this the most important gift to natural science that Yale has yet received.

At the same meeting, the Yale Corporation accepted Professor Marsh's gift by a unanimous vote, and expressed their high appreciation of his generosity to the University.

Professor Marsh's letter accompanying his deed of gift is essentially as follows:

"To the President and Fellows of Yale University.

GENTLEMEN:—It is thirty years and more since Mr. George Peabody established at Yale, by a gift of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, the Museum that now bears his name. This was in 1866, the year I began my work as Professor of Paleontology, and I secured this gift mainly with a view of building up a Department of Paleontology that should be a school of original research as well as one of instruction. The collections of natural history which I had thus brought together were subsequently deposited in the Peabody Museum, and from that time I have endeavored in every way to increase these collections, so that at present they are in many respects the most extensive and valuable in this country.

"It has always been part of my plan that these scientific collections should eventually become the property of Yale University, and from the first I provided in my will for such a disposition of them. As it now seems probable that I may not be able to carry out my original intentions in regard to a Department of Paleontology at Yale, I have decided to present these collections to the University, subject only to certain conditions that appear necessary for their permanent care and preservation. The deed of gift, which I herewith enclose, bears the date of January 1st, 1898.

SIX SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS.

"These various collections, now deposited in the Peabody Museum in New Haven, include six of special importance which may be briefly described as follows:—

"(1) *The Collection of Vertebrate Fossils.* This is the most important and valuable of all, as it is very extensive, contains a very large number of type specimens, many of them unique, and is widely known from the descriptions already published. In extinct Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles, of North

America, this series stands pre-eminent.

"This collection was pronounced by Huxley, who examined it with care in 1876, to be surpassed by no other in the world. Darwin, in 1878, expressed a strong desire to visit America for the sole purpose of seeing this collection. Since then it has been more than doubled in size and value, and still holds first rank. The bulk of this collection has been secured in my western explorations, which have extended over a period of nearly thirty years, during which I have crossed the Rocky Mountains twenty-seven times.

"(2) *The Collection of Fossil Footprints.* These specimens are mainly from the Connecticut Valley, and thus have a special local interest. They also form one of the most extensive and complete collections of the kind in this country, if not the most valuable of all.

"(3) *The Collection of Invertebrate Fossils.* This includes a large number of interesting specimens from many formations and localities, both in this country and in Europe. Some of these fossils I collected myself, but the greater number were secured by purchase. Among the series of specimens especially valuable may be mentioned several thousand from the famous Mazon Creek locality in Illinois; a very extensive collection of Crinoids from Crawfordville in Indiana; the largest collection of nearly entire Trilobites yet discovered; and one of the rarest series of Silurian Sponges known, including important type specimens.

"(4) *The Collection of Recent Osteology.* This is believed to be the most complete collection in this country for purposes of study. I have made special efforts for many years to secure the skeletons of rare existing vertebrates from every part of the world, particularly of Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles. The collection is especially rich in Anthropoid Apes, the Gorillas being represented by no less than thirteen individuals, and the other genera by rare characteristic specimens.

"(5) *The Collection of American Archeology and Ethnology.* This collection is the best in the country in several branches of the science, being particularly rich in Central American antiquities, several thousand specimens in number and many of them unique. Some of these I obtained myself in Central America, and among the others is the famous de Zeltner collection, rich in gold ornaments, which I secured by purchase. The specimens from Mexico are also of great interest, and the series is a representative one. It includes the well-known Skilton collection.

"(6) *The Collection of Minerals.* This is a limited collection, but contains many valuable specimens, among them probably the most interesting series known of Nova Scotian Zeolites. These were mainly collected by myself, before I graduated at Yale, during six expeditions to Nova Scotia.

"The three principal collections in the above series, numbered 1, 4, and 5, have practically no other representatives at Yale, and hence their importance to this institution.

"Besides the six main collections named, I have several others of less value, which include fossil plants, casts of fossils, geological specimens, and recent zoological material. These, also, are deposited in the Peabody Museum, and are covered by the present deed of gift.

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"On learning of the acceptance of this gift on the part of the Corporation of Yale University, with the conditions stated in the accompanying deed, I will make the formal transfer to them of all the collections above named.

Very respectfully,

O. C. MARSH.

Yale University, January 1, 1898."

CONDITIONS OF THE GIFT.

The conditions on which Professor Marsh gives his invaluable collections to Yale University, for the benefit of all departments of the University, are few in number, the more important being the following:—

"(1) The scientific collections I now give to Yale University shall be kept in the present Peabody Museum building or in additions thereto equally safe from fire.

"(2) During my life, these collections shall remain, as now, under my supervision and control, available for my own investigation and description, or for the work of others designated by me.

"(3) At my decease, and forever after, these collections shall be under the charge of the Trustees of the Peabody Museum and their successors, and in the special custody of Curators recommended by them and appointed by the Corporation of Yale University.

"(4) The type specimens and others of special importance in these collections shall not be removed from the Museum building. Less valuable specimens, however, especially duplicates, may be so removed by vote of the Trustees of the Museum."

SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF THE GIFT.

From a scientific point of view, the value of the collections now presented to Yale is beyond price, each one containing many specimens that can never be duplicated, and are already of historical interest in the annals of science.

Among the prominent features of one of these collections, that of extinct vertebrates, may be mentioned (1) the series of fossils illustrating the genealogy of the horse, as made out by Professor Marsh, and accepted by Huxley, who used it as the basis of his New York lectures; (2) the Birds with teeth, nearly two hundred individuals, described in Professor Marsh's well-known monograph "Odontornithes"; (3) the gigantic Dinocerata, several hundred in number, Eocene mammals described in his monograph on this group; (4) the Brontotheriidae, huge Miocene mammals, some two hundred in number; (5) Pterodactyles, or flying dragons, over six hundred in number; (6) the Mosasaurs, or Cretaceous sea-serpents, represented by more than fifteen hundred individuals; (7) a large number of Dinosaurian reptiles, some of gigantic size. Besides these are various other groups of Mammals, Birds, and Reptiles, most of them including unique specimens.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE YALE CORPORATION.

The resolutions of the Corporation of Yale University, accepting Professor Marsh's gift, and showing their appreciation of his services to the University, are given below:—

"Yale University,
January 13, 1898.

The President and Fellows, having received a deed of gift from Professor Othniel C. Marsh, presenting to the University his very valuable collections now in the Peabody Museum, which represent the labor of many years on his part and also the expenditure of a large amount from his personal fortune, desire, as they accept the gift, to communicate to him, and to place on record, an expression of their grateful acknowledgment of his generosity.

"In this grateful acknowledgment they are confident that all the graduates and friends of Yale will unite,

when they learn of this most recent manifestation of his long-continued interest in the University, even as they already fully appreciate the unselfish devotion of his time, his talents, and his energies, for more than thirty years, to the scientific researches which have given him such personal distinction and have brought such renown to the institution.

TIMOTHY DWIGHT,
President."

The legal transfer to Yale University of all the scientific collections above mentioned has since been made by Professor Marsh.

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.

The Corporation's Choice of Men for This Purpose.

The Yale Corporation, at its meeting, January 13, took the first formal step for the celebration of Yale's two-hundredth anniversary, in October, 1901. This step was the appointment of the committee in whose hands will be all the arrangements for the celebration. This committee was chosen as follows:

First, the three following officers of the University, ex-officio: President Timothy Dwight, '49; Mr. W. W. Farnam, '66, Treasurer of the University; Prof. F. B. Dexter, '61, Secretary of the Corporation. Next to these, as particularly representing the Faculty and as peculiarly fitted for such service, the names were added of Professor George P. Fisher, Dean of the Theological School; Professor George J. Brush, Director of the Sheffield Scientific School, and Professor Francis Wayland, Dean of the Law School. Hon. Henry E. Howland, '54, of New York; Rev. Dr. Charles R. Palmer, '55, of New Haven, and the Hon. E. G. Mason, '60, of Chicago, were chosen from the Corporation itself. The rest of the committee is made up from the graduate list, though it includes two members of the Faculty. The names are as follows: Mr. Payson Merrill, '65, New York; Mr. George C. Holt, '66, New York; Mr. Thomas Hooker, '69, New Haven; Mr. W. L. McLane, '69, New York; Mr. Thomas Thacher, '71, New York; Mr. Charles Hopkins Clark, '71, Hartford; Prof. Theodore S. Woolsey, '72, New Haven; Mr. Samuel R. Betts, '75; Mr. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, '76 S., New York; Professor John C. Schwab, '86, New Haven; Mr. Harry P. Whitney, '94, New York; Mr. William Sloane, '95, New York.

The committee will soon meet to lay out the general program of work.

Yale Hockey Schedule.

The management of the Yale Hockey team have announced the following schedule:

January 20th, New Jersey Athletic Club at the Claremont Avenue Rink, Brooklyn; January 22d, Harvard at Lake Whitney; January 26th, Montclair Athletic Club at Claremont Avenue Rink; January 29th, Brown at the Claremont Avenue Rink; February 5th, Columbia at the St. Nicholas Rink, New York City; February 12th, Harvard at Cambridge. There will be another game with Brown, the date and location of which has not yet been determined. The team practices at Lake Whitney whenever it is possible to do so.