

June 10, 1904.

My Dear Lord Rector;-

You must not consider my failure to write to you for some time past as an indication that I have forgotten you. It would be utterly impossible for a man situated as I am to forget you, for I am surrounded by your work, and, thanks to the trust which you repose in me, I have been very busy with your works. What with my duty in connection with the Museum and in connection with the Hero Fund Commission, I think I can say that Mr. Carnegie has kept me reasonably busy. In doing this I suppose I should regard you as an opponent of the devil, for you have kept me out of mischief and thus prevented me from engaging in evil works to which I otherwise might have gravitated, if Dr. Watts' philosophy is correct – "Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do".

I have just concluded writing a letter to Professor Lankester, the Director of the British Museum, informing him that the reproduction of the skeleton of *Diplodocus* will be completed on or about the 15th day of July, and asking him for full and explicit directions as to how to ship, and telling him that it is your kind purpose to have this specimen set up and properly installed as your gift without any expense to the Museum in London. When I get instructions from him as to their wishes and plans and purposes I will be ready to proceed in finally executing your commands.

The Directors of the Western Pennsylvania Exposition Society very kindly gave me the use of space in their main building without charge in which to assemble the skeleton. Our men are at work putting the monster together and building the framework of rods which supports the skeleton. This framework I wish to say is in my judgment a very great advance upon anything of the kind that has heretofore been made. Very little iron-work will be visible, and we will avoid the unsightly and cumbrous mass of scaffolding which appears in the restoration of some of these skeletons. The beast turns out to be between 84 and 85 feet long from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail, when the vertebral column is laid down horizontally. When mounted, of course, with the necessary graceful curvature which belongs to the mounted skeleton, the length is diminished, so that it covers on the floor a length of only about 78 or 80 feet. The whipcord tail adds considerably to the length, but Hatcher swears that as three tails have now been found with the bones in position and all tapering out as is the case here, that we are quite right in putting on this long tail. The beast apparently had a caudal appendage which tapered away very much like the tail of the lizard which you have seen in the South basking on rocks – "run-away jims" the negroes used to call them in the Carolinas. The whole thing is done and in order to set up, and we have the consolation of knowing what is not known in any other case, that what we are setting up is a reproduction of the real thing: My friend Osborn is mounting an object in plaster of Paris at the American Museum of Natural History which he calls the restoration of the skeleton of *Brontosaurus*. We have enough material to set up a skeleton of *Brontosaurus* also. When we get our *Brontosaurus* up it will be a very different looking thing from the caricature which one of these days you may see mounted at the American Museum. *Brontosaurus* was a heavier beast than [sic] *Diplodocus*, but it was not nearly so long. It was clumsier in shape. The trouble with Osborn is that he does not possess enough in certain portions of the frame to allow him to put the thing up as it ought to be, and he is going upon his imagination -- a very dangerous thing to do in science.

We are getting along at the Museum as well as could be expected. Everybody is hard at work, but we are horribly cramped for room in which to labor, and are looking forward with great satisfaction to the time when the new building will be completed. That, however, I am quite sure cannot be done under two or three years, in spite of all declarations to the contrary, is [if] the progress of the past months is an index as to the progress to be made in the coming months.

I hope that you are very, very well, and that every blessing which heart could wish is yours. Kindly remember me to Mrs. Carnegie.

With assurances of best esteem and regard, I am,

Faithfully yours,

[W. J. Holland]

Director Carnegie Museum