

Burlington Jan 16. 1828. -

logues &c or from Alexander Bingham & A. G. Desmarest with plates 4 to 16. Phlegm

Dear Brother
 I have not had time to write you any long letters, as is evident from the size of the sheets. I have not had them and occasion to write lengthily as Jonathan says, & so I bought a pen with the idea that my correspondents may not be at the expense of paying double though they have to read double. I have been long wishing to find time to say some thing on several topics & as I am now fairly launched into vacation, I shall find no better opportunity than this present. Not that vacation is ever a time of idleness, or even leisure in the common sense of the word. I expect always to labor hard in vacation as in term time, but I am not called to college, at any rate, & can lay aside my books to write a letter or write to you. An term ended a fortnight since, & I have been for some days deep in Archaeology. Previous to that time Prof. Fony & myself had done something towards naming & arranging in neat paper boxes in drawers. I have above 280 species, of which I had about 100 duplicates which we laid by to put in the Coll. Nat. History. Mr Barnes sent me about 120 or 30 I presume - I had a good many before - some just like those that Prof. Fony procured the rest, probably 30 species or more in Salem & gave them to those of which they are very fine ones - some of them valuable. With Sampson - dist. Boston & Maine we settled nearly all of them. We found the study of geology attracted & far more philosophical than I had supposed it would be. We long expect to receive some more from Salem. Mr Kelly who went to Santa Fe de Compostela has expected home next month or soon after, & he promised to bring a large paper from the mountains of the Andes. Prof Fony, though a profound & enthusiastic philologist has a mind for science of every kind. He takes hold of Nat. History with the same

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entitled "Histoire naturelle des Crustacés Fossiles, sous les rapports Zoologiques et Géologiques" (History of Fossil Crustaceans, under the zoological and geological aspects) is a mind-boggling work of every kind. He takes hold of Nat History with the eager-
 -as a grand hand at shells - is something of a Britainist - is as eager as I am to build
 up the Coll. Nat Hist. & as is the President also. - I am thinking much of spending
 the summer in making collections of all sorts. Mr Marsh & Tong are anxious
 should they go on college during my absence & I think we can get means
 the expedition. I plan would be something like this. I know some of the Naturalists
 & they could make me acquainted with those in Phil. &c. - Most naturalists, if given
 for donations would not trouble themselves to select & put up any thing - or any
 value of it - I intend to go to them myself & save them the trouble of putting up &c -
 they would give readily - I can get fishes, reptiles, birds & shells or myself to a considerable
 & get a scientific man to name them, which would forward things in our collection
 a great deal. - I could dredge for shells - collect minerals ^{of spirits} & indeed return with pretty
 large quantities, besides having got much knowledge which I could turn to beneficial
 account & make extensive beneficial acquaintance with scientific men. Our collections would be
 those of large that we could bring them before the public & talk about them - draw the atten-
 & thus all would tend to enlarge them & the influence of the Uni-
 versity. What think you of such a scheme? I should probably go as soon as May & return in
 the latter part of July. - I were to go at all - should aim to visit the principal places & localities
 Baltimore to Salem Mass perhaps. - This method is pursued you know, not infrequently. We
 can not fit out, exploring expeditions to New Holland - or Africa; but if we can accumulate the
 natural treasures of our own country, they are the very things which we first need. -
 We intend writing by the first opportunities to all whom we are acquainted with in foreign parts
 to send us specimens. So doing we shall bye & bye get some. We know several of the Missionaries
 in the Pacific & the I. Indies. Richards I should think would send me shells &c from the Pacific if I
 were to write to him requesting it.

I rec^d your last just after I wrote to you, enclosing a letter to Mr Barnes done for Holmby house
& suppose Dr Waterhouse by whom I sent them left them with you long ago. — You did not
say a word about the returns which I proposed to make to Mr B. for his present of shells.
I should like to know whether he would be pleased with such a return, that I may
make it out during the present vacation. I would not have his expectations of any thing
uncommon roused, lest he might feel disappointed & I should lose instead of gain in
his books of kind feeling. If you have said nothing to him, why it is to long since, it is perhaps
as well to avoid doing so, in a very direct manner: but judge from your conversation with
him what you think will please him & mention it to me. — I am most inclined to select
& fit up in a neat little case a suite of quite small but very perfect specimens in min-
eralogy.

I told you sometime since that I thought I would put up a box of minerals to
go to some of Dr Grammi's acquaintances in Copenhagen: but I did not get time.
Perhaps I may in the Spring. — So much for topics connected with Nat. History — at least
for the present. — I hoped ere this to have seen something from your pen in some of the N. Y. papers
respecting our new laws. — In fact we can perceive from the experience of 4 months, they are
just the thing. All men of discernment — especially young men, whose opinions we have heard
are in our favor. — The outlines of proceeding are manifest enough in the laws: but perhaps
a few of the details will be interesting to you. Our students are divided simply by their studies, with-
out any regard to their time of residence in Coll. Thus the class in Algebra — Geometry — Chemistry &
If a portion of the class is less efficient naturally or less industrious, they are made to fall behind
the rest (for the universal maxim is to go forward only as far as is compatible with going
well) — that portion is made a separate section, convening for recitation however with the rest (as far as
we have had occasion to do this during the past term) they are made to review & study till they
can go forward. Though we do not let all scatter just as it happens, we let each corps, compos-
ed of those who can draw well together, make all the headway it can. — In my recitation room,
(for though I should have a dozen classes, they all come to my ^{own} room & room of the rest) I have
no less than 4 black boards. Thus I can set 4 at work at once, & I can generally attend to the rec-
itation of 4 as fast as the same do it. —

no less than 4 black boards. Thus I can set 4 at work at once, & can generally attend to the recitation of 4 as fast as they can draft in Geometry Algebra or the like. Consequently I am usually able to hear each scholar recite nearly all of the lesson - often quite all. Our seasons for recitation are except in very short days two hours before breakfast & two in the afternoon. A student is deemed to have his lesson well, when with out assistance from instructor or book, he can go to the board & exhibit it from beginning to end. In Conic sections for instance (Conic course) every good scholar in the class, upon my saying to him when we began a recitation "proceed with the lesson" would go to the board & draft off the whole & explain it step by step, & so in Geometry &c. - Each instructor has printed forms of "Instructor's Bills" which he fills weekly for each of his classes. On this he is obliged to note at each recitation whether the student is present, absent or comes tardily in. Also assuming 10 as a convenient standard number for a perfect recitation he is obliged to note at each recitation by a figure what he deems the character of the individual's recitation with reference to the Standard number. - These bills properly signed ^{dated} by the instructors are reported to the Faculty weekly. At the end of each term the average character of each one's recitation for that term is easily made out - his punctuality or. ~~These~~ examinations at the end of the terms are conducted in an analogous manner. You may judge something of its scope. Our students were above half way teaching, but eighteen being present. We were nearly 4 days (beginning before breakfast in the morning) in examining them on the studies of the term. Just as much is required of the student in examination as in the recitations - the greatest care being taken to provide to all equal tasks & to each one such tasks as, ~~that~~ if he performs them well, will prove that he has not forgotten what he learned. Each instructor marks independently, the character of each particular examination with reference to standard numbers affixed to each question according to their relative difficulty. From comparing the results of all the examiners, a mean is taken for each study by itself. All these results are recorded & likewise transmitted to the Parents of the students. Thus every inducement is held out for each student to constantly perform every duty & to keep up his knowledge, a matter easily done & very important yet un-

ally neglected very much of students in general. — We have tried this method but twice & have witnessed since its adoption very great improvement. Of course it is impossible to bring students up to the highest mark of effort & acquirement without a reasonable time being afforded. It takes a long time also to make a young student, who has not had proper examples before his eyes, fully apprehend what is meant by doing well & what is the best method for him to pursue in order to acquire the most in the best manner. —

Our last N.Y. paper but one brought us Gov. Clinton's message — as usual a good thing. I am glad to see from his pen a few strokes at the scandalous conduct of the political partisans of the day. It is long since I read any thing on the subject of the next President. I became sickened to exasperation long ago by the dirty trash — the partisan phrenzy — the thorough going selfishness displayed by nearly all the writers on both sides. The Right of the world Adams or Jackson in a paragraph has been a reason for my passing it over for many months past. One thing I am well assured of, that it matters very little for the country which of them be President. Were the outs to be things, the same general national policy would be pursued. It ever has been so. I conceive it to be mostly a mere question of interest in the individuals concerned. Politicians love power & will struggle to get & keep it, & all love to have their hands in the goose's feathers. As matters now stand, there seems a likelihood of Jackson's election — a thing I should rather be sorry for, because I believe there are at least 20,000 men in the Union better qualified than he is for a seat in the national Sella curule. I believe to be sure, if he is elected he will use his endeavours to do well as much as any man. I see some slight movements in favor of putting up Clinton — & shame it is that that was not done a year since; for if actively pushed I doubt not the election might have been made in his favor. I think the Jacksonians would have been glad to have left the "hero of N. Orleans" for Clinton. They felt tolerably sure of his gaining the day. I side with the

I think the Jacksonians would have been glad to have ^{the} "hero of N. Orleans" for Elector if they felt tolerably sure of his gaining the day. I judge they are a little ashamed of their man by their praising him so loudly & constantly. But I fear it is too late now to bring forward another with any hope of success. — I am glad also to see Gov. C. bring down the subject of duelling, even though he did one fight and himself. I hope his age has brought down their consciences when they compare their oaths of office with their conduct on such matters. The slang talk that it is impossible to get proof ^{of the transaction being out of the state} of the transaction being out of the state. I consider a libel on every man's common sense. A fine story truly. Here an Irish drayman will use all the craft he can, with most scrupulous concealment ^{of} all the affair from every one, in deceiving another no better than he is, & then run to N.Y. or Ohio or to Canada! But it will avail him nothing. The G. jury will combine a few circumstances & fasten a suspicion on him — a request will be made to the executive of another state or nation to deliver him up — it is done a chain of incontrovertible proof is made out, & he is hung as a thief or a wilful doer, & rightly too; Boston & Graham go over to jury with swords in open day — one shoots the other & returns to N.Y. — the matter is talked of all over the city & country — the course of the quarrel — the circumstances of the affair are detailed in every newspaper — the murderer perhaps goes into Connecticut or Phil. for a few weeks — a formal question or two is put to a physician who says he does not know who shot his patient by an inquest who bring in a verdict of death ^{partly} a shot from some unknown person. — The State authorities where the deed was done & where all the parties belonged move not a finger further & then in extenuation of their apathy, & perjury before God, the juries, judges & say there is no help for it, till public sentiment shall put a stop to it!! Shame! Crime! — Talk about stopping it by public sentiment only! Let only all the authorities do their duty & hang the next five duellists who survive & imprison for life all the accessories, & my word for it, a ~~cause affected stop~~ public or private sentiment will then stop it. Nor will it be stopped till practically as well as really it be made murder in the 1st degree.

I have not rec^d any letter from. He has written to Louisa once or twice, & by bye my turn will
 come I presume. About his dish which he proposes to cook for the Public, I am afraid of the spice.
 Do you advise him not to submit any thing to public view till he has shown it to you or myself. We
 may thus trim off some of the wildest of the flourishes, some of which he will be quite liable to put on.
 I hope he will stick to his present situation while - & not waste all his time in wandering to little purpose, &
 spend all he can earn in paying stage fare. Adam I presume is doing well & has nothing to do with
 the rascally rioters who serve the devil with such a high hand at Christmas Newyears &c. of whom the
 papers treat. I think N. Y. needs to look out or she will have to get a corps of gens de arms in the french
 & English style to ride down her mobs. if constables cannot be procured numerous & encouraged enough to
 secure block up such gangs as occur on such occasions to put every persons body & property in jeopardy.
 Of Louisa you wish to know something I presume. She has written to you once or twice since I have. She seems
 disposed to write freely & I encourage her in doing it. She is more as she ever was to care more for expedition
 than accuracy. Judge however she is improving some in this particular. She can hardly be said to be pursu-
 ing any one study, & I hardly know whether it is worth while to have her. A general tone needs to be
 given to her character more than any thing else. She improves constantly in every thing I judge; but she
 will ever retain the points of character which she has ever exhibited; though the disagreeable ones will be rendered
 less to & the good ones improved. She is a great deal more ready to begin a new thing or to propose a new study than
 she is to stick to one which is begun & carry it through. It has to be a short book that she reads thoroughly through.

I have judged my letter sufficiently long to
 to write. I have just written the sheet with a
 globe of, but there can not be a man to sell
 at which can sell for with them if they can
 not - not such an author as will give the
 Boston town 50 dollars more than we offer
 titles & prices of books & magazines out
 reply - of Mr. Miller on the Phillips' name
 work out by his introduction to the study
 will be a very valuable & interesting
 See if you can get for me Dr. S. S. S. S.
 first edition of those who would be likely to
 or Fisher's ~~the~~ last for our purpose. We want to
 of them & you will not complain of the shortness of



1837
 Benedict Coye
 Nassau N. Y. York city
 G. W. Benedict

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 July 9. 1828

44 Bay St
Ansured July 9.
single

E. C. Bend

44 Nassau
W. D. Barrett
Recd July 22 1828
Ansured July 9. 1828

to send you some for a number
of shells of the last 3 weeks
I have been a chance to
be expected. Still the
study of fossils remains
interesting work
"Conchology or shellology"
we like to know what work
we want to a throne of our life.
No help of this order. - G. M. B.

She is engaged to be useful in the house & in society - is very ready to do all that she can. Her education is certainly very imperfect, yet too quite too late, her turn being as it is, to think of making her very thorough in anything. The question is in my mind what had she & we better have in view respecting her? She ought to be in a way after a while to do something towards earning her support more directly than she now does. Will it not be the best for her to calculate on getting a small school as a steady employment by & by? I should think that in the vicinity where Father is appointed - Richmond - Green River - or some where else, she might get from \$1.50 to 2. a week the year round, besides her board. She might teach reading - writing (after some more practice) small arithmetic - Geography & Eng. Grammar, besides needle work, successfully I think she has a pretty good turn for teaching I judge. You must write to me on all this matter freely.

Have you learned any thing more of Mrs Perkins' books & shells? That work which I spoke of must be Dr. Argenville's I think. He published "L'histoire Naturelle éclaircie dans deux de ces principales Parties, la Lithologie et la Conchiliologie. Paris 1742 et 1757. 4 to. 1780. 2 vols with plates." This description I have taken from Pennant's catalogue of Testaceous writers. Now I think that of Mrs P. must be one of the best. If it is, it is rich in numerous elegant & accurate plates, much referred to by Lamarck, & if it can be got cheap I would certainly get it. So too of the other of quite cheap; but that is of less importance. - We are wishing to get a few standard works for the Col. Nat. History, & wish you to see if they are in the library, what they cost - also to inquire of Curville what he will import them for I give you their names & prices on an Eng. catalogue. "Mineral Conchology, or the fossil shells of St Brittain col^d figures & descriptions, by J. Souley. G & Nos at 5/-". Plates uncolored would be just as good if obtainable & would be cheaper. -

"A natural History of the Cirrionida or Lily-shaped animals, with observations on the genera Asteria, Curyale, Comatula & Mantopites, illustrated with fifty col^d plates. By J. S. Miller. 4 to 2. 12. 6". - "Organic Remains of a former world" &c &c by James Parkinson in 3 quarto Vols - 10. 10. - also a work in French (see first page)