

Felch writes to Marsh about removing more dermal plates. He gives details on the continued sorting of bones from Skeletons 9 and 11. He ends with a postscript about a disastrous flood through his ranch but the quarry escaped severe damage.

Canon City Colo
June 27th 1886

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Work has gone on about as usual the past week – nothing of special interest having turned up.

The last, and largest of the dermal plates, of which a diagram was sent we took out in almost perfect condition, though separated into several sections.

Since removing that we have taken out another very large block – and two smaller ones on a line with the vertebrae – and in one of these smaller blocks containing one and a half of the anterior caudals, find a connection with the large plate.

That is - ~~an~~ one end of the block having the caudals – has the cast and a little of the rough rugose surface showing where the plate lay – and with these points marked on the blocks removed – together with the diagram, the whole thing can be made plain, as I feared it would not be when I had to work the plates out separately.

I may have been over-particular on some of these points but I wish you to get the whole skeleton there exactly as we find it – and also to keep the connection as accurately as possible – so there can be no guess work about it afterwards – or confusion in restoring the different groups

It seems that in this large block (the 2nd large one) there is as much of the sacrum as in the first one, of which I sent an outline two weeks since.

It is possible it may be broken apart – with a portion in each = where there are so many bones crowded into so little space – with but few points exposed in the rock it is hard to tell just what there is to a certainty. Of one thing however we are certain and that is – in one direction we have got through the body and into the tail, some three or four vertebrae at least

To the left of where these last blocks came out however is a portion of one large leg bone – and the whole of two smaller ones - the last probably being the tibia and fibula – and underneath all is a lower section next to the marl where we shall have to look for the feet and other missing parts of this skeleton.

These leg bones on the left side run under Sk. 9 – some six or seven feet from the front, all of which must be taken down of Sk. 9 before we can remove them entire.

In regard to the other fore leg – I don't believe it is here – for I took out and sent the humerus in 1883 – as will be seen by looking on the quarry map of that year.

It lay almost directly under the nose of Ceratasaurus and but a few feet from where we now are – and must have belonged with Sk. 11 as no other bones of Stegosaurus but Sk. 11 have been found in this division of the quarry.

In all of the work so far on Sk. 11 I have seen nothing that resembles a spine with one exception – and this a short one six or seven inches long just back of the sacrum.

There may be more but they do not show up.

After cleaning up what we have on hand again the next three or four weeks will have to be put in mostly on Sk. 9 I expect.

The last block on this Sk. 9 taken out, shows I believe the cervical rib united to the centrum. Does this show we are anywhere near the head?

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Enclose "please find statement as before – to cover money advanced.

If you can send me this (\$150.⁰⁰) so that I can get it by the 10th July will be greatly obliged as one of my men whose time is up then will leave and wants his pay in full up to that time.

Very Respectfully
M. P. Felch

P.S. Tuesday 29th

Since writing my letter of Sunday (27th) we have met with a great damage and loss by flood.

A cloud burst took place about 11 P.M. Sunday Eve – cutting my ranch – land, crops and fences so that 500 dollars will hardly repair the damage.

The quarry grounds escaped the worst and but little damage was done there.

M. P. F.