

1456

November 57

Dear Sir

The catalogue I
sent you from the table of
contents is a volume of
600 quarto pages concluding
one of the series of Pacific Rail
Road report, and embraces
all the North American
mammals. It has not
yet been distributed, owing
to a delay in completing
the plates. These consist
ly of details of soft parts
and of skulls, of which a
specimen is figured of nearly ev-
ery genus. The number of plates
is about 60. The book is pub-
lished by Congress, not the
Smithsonian.

655

I have discussed at considerable length the question of the Lacini. With a large number of specimens before me I could realize no differences other than of locality, season, and sex. I could have picked out about four forms apparently distinct, but when these were compared imperceptibly by others I had to abandon in comparison the idea of separating them until I could get still more material. I think it likely that there is an extreme North American which we have recently received from near Lake Winnipeg, different from South. But I have not had time to examine it further. Specimens are not swamped in no 3000: I will soon hand them out and pass them to you. With thanks for their use, why cannot you take a run down to Washington this winter and see

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1452
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no collections. We might
of give a systematic crash
against the irrational his-
tory of Mexico & Am-
erica. I much wish
to receive. It would take
but a short time to
accomplish. (both the trip
and the cruise!)

Yours sincerely
Spencer F Baird

Prof. J. W. Dawson
Montreal
Canada

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