## Peabody Museum of American Archwology and Ethnology,

Cambridge, Mass., January 14,88395

Sir William Dawson,

Montreal, Canada.

My dear Dr. Dawson: -

I returned from New York this morning and found your letter just received relating to the Association meeting, and containing a postscript reminding me of the measurements of skulls which you asked me to send to you in your letter of December 27th.

Since receiving your former letter it has been impossible for me to get a moment in which to look over the manscript that I felt sure I had that would give me the measurements I think you desire, as I have been absent part of the time and have had my lectures and other duties when here. Please excuse the delay which you will readily understand has been a necessary one on my part.

The manuscript tables I now send you, I must beg you to return as soon as you have taken what you wish from them. They are the work of the late Miss Studley, a former student assistant of mine, a beautiful girl of fine character, who had she been spared would undoubtedly have done most valuable work in physical anthropology.

You will see in these tables that there are measurements of two Guanche which we have in the Museum, and also of some of the New England Indians, as well as measurements of other peoples for comparison. This table was prepared as you will see for the purpose of making a comparative study of what we know here as the Shrewsbury skull, which was in reality from New York State. It was a skull that was used in an attempt to play a joke upon some gentlemen in Shrewsbury who had found the skeleton of a mastodon. Some young doctors who had this skull placed it one night with the bones of the mastodon so that it should be found when further excavations were made to get out the remainder of the bones of the mastodon. The skull was sent to me, some years ago, and fortunately I detected the "fraud", which was afterward acknowledged to me by the parties who had taken the skull from a collection and placed it in the peat with the mastodon bones. It seems to me that the information contained in these tables is just what you are after.

In relation to the work in physical anthropology in connection with my department of the World's Columbian Exposition, I will state that we had measurements of nearly 20000 Indians belonging to different tribes of North America, and we also hade the measurements of a large number of crania. The report on this mass of material has been written by Dr. Boas and I have sent it to the Director General as one of the appended papers of my report.

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1885.

3

These several reports of the Chiefs of departments the Director

General appends to his report which he forwards to Congress for

publication we trust some time in the near future. I am thus

unable to give you any data from any of my Exposition material, or

I should do so with pleasure.

As to the Association meeting, I agree with you fully that the Association should hold a meeting in SanFrancisco, but it seems to me that the time is not yet quite ripe. The stir that we make at this time may induce the Californians to take hold of the matter in a way that will really take the Association to their state. At present although considerable effort has been made, we cannot secure what I consider proper rates from the railroads; nor have the Californians become thoroughly aroused to the importance of having the Association meet there. I have no doubt that should we go there this summer we should be most hospitably received but there ought to be some more decided effort made on the part of California before the Association permits itself to hold a meeting there.

A very cordial and enthusiastic invitation has been sent to us from Springfield which I think it will be worth our while to

accept, and let California give us another invitation for some future year.

In '76 we shall go to Buffalo, as they insist in having us there every tenth year.

In '77 we must a range to have our meeting held so as not to conflict with the meeting of the British Association if that is to be in Toronto; for the members of each association ought to have the opportunity of attending the meeting of the other.

Mortman

Sincerely yours.

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## -\*McGill \* University, &-

SÍR W. DAWSON, LL.D., F.R.S.

PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR.

Montreal,

188

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Capacity 1225, flabello accepital 183, Offingo Oc 182

To Minimum Similar 94 Phiphamial 100, Garmantond 121

Brancoulan 119, Lempinal 129 Marginium 133

Arteriar 106, Stepht Couri brepriate 126, Index

Theadth Staboel 727 Do Oph ac 783, Index

Theight 689, Horrintal Circumference 507

Philips (Daubenta) 900, Internalar Superior 59

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Internalar in friin 102;

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