

Washington, D. C. November 8 1857

My dear Mr. Marsh
 Mary and I were very glad to hear of your good fortune or times go. in getting the railroad commissionership. Not that we don't firmly believe that there is no place quite equal to your deserts or ability to fill. May not this be considered as the turn of the tide even if it be only a very little flow.

Gillin as far as I know is perfectly well. He was at the Smithsonian Friday last. I saw them all at home a week or two ago. Lamer has just gone to Florida on Coast Survey duty.

Foussenel is no ornithologist, but a mystical shafy poet about birds and the like. The only work of his I have ever seen or can read is Le Monde des oiseaux. We have it, but I have read it. The work by Matrefages is one on the coast Fauna of Sicily in connection