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Washington, D.C. Jan 9. 1872.

My dear Mr Marsh.

I enclose a letter from Geo. Gibbs in reference to the inquiry made by some time ago as to whether the right-hand is used by the Indians in preference to the left.

The response of Gen. Parker covers the ground quite satisfactorily.

I have also seen lately an essay by some Physiologist, in which he shows that there is some peculiarity in the circulation of the system, by which in the greater number of cases, the right-hand must necessarily be the organ selected.

We are all well this winter, & having your brother, the Edmunds & Corrie came in Washington, we find occasion to talk a good deal about you.

I am hard at work as usual, as you may well imagine, although I am getting so fat that it is more of an undertaking for me to move around promptly than formerly. I now weigh over 200 lbs, & have a fair prospect of reaching 250 lbs. by the end of the present year. I have just put to prep my new book on the N. American birds, in which I have the co-operation of Dr Brewer in reference to the habits of the species. The work will be properly illustrated by very good wood cuts, & I think will be a valuable addition to science. You will also, perhaps, be pacified to know that I am