

Andover, Mass., April 25, 1896.

Dear Prof. Lyon.

Yours of yesterday is at hand.-

The objects that I collected during the two years which I spent in the work of exploration and those that I collected during my first term as consul, are for the most part in the Andover Museum. Besides these there were a good many objects which belonged to me exclusively and which the Andover people had nothing to do with, - knew nothing of in fact.

During my second term as consul I collected a great many things. What I offer belongs to me of course.

At the same time I am Curator of the Andover Museum and am the sole authority for arranging, transferring, disposing of duplicates, &c., &c. Was there any prospect of our people here getting money for a new building in which I could have suitable rooms, and money for the things which I have in hand (so far as they are not duplicates), I would not think of disposing of them elsewhere. I would hold on to them till a suitable place should be provided. But there is no such prospect, and at present no effort is being made *in that direction*.

I am under no obligation to hold my collection for the Andover people, only I have, or might have, some local pride about it, were there any prospect, as I have said.

The objects ought to go somewhere, be arranged, exposed, classified, described, - and if it were in Cambridge <sup>(some portion of it)</sup> that is work which I should take a personal interest in doing, - at my own charges.

I think I will inclose a list of the objects, - but let me ask you to remember that it is not designed to be exact like a bill of sale, but only approximately correct.-

As to an interview I cannot say this morning; <sup>if</sup> after looking over my letter and the inclosed list you think an interview desirable, please send me word, or telegraph me.

Should you get this letter to day and write me to night I should get it, or a telegram, by Monday morning, and could possibly see you Monday afternoon, - I must go to Boston Monday morning and make an address.

Yours sincerely Selah Merrill.

