

114 University Avenue -
Ithaca N.Y. May 30th 1891.

Pres. Coulter -

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter to which
I hasten to make a reply. My position at this
moment is such that I cannot come to any
definite conclusion, as to what I shall do, remain
at Cornell or go to Indiana -

There are two Reasons why I hesitate to assume
the responsibility of taking charge of taking charge of
your Geol. Department. In the first place I do not
feel competent to offer a course of lectures that would
compare favorably at all with that given by Pres. Jordan
whose interesting style and pleasing presentation
never fails to call forth the admiration even of the
most disinterested student. I judge from the short
conversation I had with Pres. Jordan, that while his
lectures were based upon scientific principles, the
presentation of the same was popular rather than
scientific. Now my work has been carried on in
such a way that it would be a difficult matter for
me to present the results of my studies in a manner
similar to that adopted by Pres. Jordan -

The second Reason is this:- I am now in
the midst of an advanced course in Palaeontology under
the direction of Prof. Williams. It will take me the
best part of another year to complete it. I am also

taking a Course in Petrography (advanced) and in addition to this carrying on some original work in conjunction with Prof Kemp - Its completion will require the greater part of next year. For these reasons I am anxious to remain one more year at Cornell - Having completed these courses I would feel far more competent to enter upon duties at ~~Blairstown~~ -

I have heard with in the last hour that Prof. Kemp is about to Resign his position at Cornell to accept a similar one at Columbia - This may change matters somewhat so that I would upon the whole prefer leaving Cornell although I have been re-appointed for next year (Salary \$1000.)

As Prof Kemp is now in New York City - I cannot give you a definite answer at this moment. But as soon as I have learned what the prospects are as to our petrographical work, and something as regards the man who succeeds Prof K, I shall give you a final answer. I would say however that could you arrange to carry on the work for one year with the man at hand, I think I would not hesitate a moment to take charge of the department and assure a fair amount of success - If it should be absolutely necessary to have a man next year to carry on all the work. I would suggest the name of Mr Charles S. Prosser - (U.S. National Museum, Washington D.C.) as one who might assume the charge for one year at least - In conclusion I think I can give you a final answer by Monday's mail or not later

Thank Tuesday, if I receive Dr. Jordan's reply to
the letter which you forwarded to him -

Hoping that will understand clearly the above
statements -

I remain -

Yours very truly -

V. F. Masters -

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