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BRITISH
MUSEUM
LONDON

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H. M. Geological Survey.

28 Jermin Street

London

12 June 1865

My dear Sir,

I thank you very much for your kind note about the honours that Mr. Christy (whose loss I deeply deplore) sent me but a few weeks before his death.

With reference to the time of the introduction of the Yellow Deer (*C. dama*) into Britain - For my own part, I know of no remains that can justly be ascribed to this animal in any of the collections of bones from the caverns or river-deposits of Britain or Ireland; the fragments of palmated antlers ascribed to it being merely those of reindeer (*C. tarandus*). Dr. Flemming (*British Animals* 1020) considers it a species indigenous in Iceland but his conviction rests only upon two questions. On the whole perhaps, though it is very

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The Roman origin of the British domestic cattle being without foundation is fact. In this case indeed the remains found in cemeteries and villas alike prove that the Roman coloni obtained their beef from the small short-horned ox. (*Bos longifrons* = *Bos brachycens*) = *Bos taurus* ? var.) that was a native of the Island long before their invasion.

I hope to have the pleasure of sending you a short paper on the Mollusc & Permalent dentition of *Pleuroceras megarhinus* (de Cuvier) & a few days, which, I find, lived on the banks of the Thames, along with the *Nicholsonia* species and the *P. leptorhinus* of Prof. Owen (= *P. hexentechus* of Dr. Falconer)

clear that it is of a date posterior to the other British Cervidae (*C. elaphus*, & *C. capreolus*) it is an open question as to how & when it was introduced. Its occurrence in the Swiss Lakes along with the Red deer, horse, short-horned ox, goat, dog, bear and others seems a case parallel to that of its discovery with the like species in Yorkshire. And if Dr. Prützmayer be right in considering the Fallow deer wild in Switzerland, why should not the remains found under very much the same circumstances ^{in England} have belonged also to a wild indigenous species? The Romans may possibly may have introduced the species but so far as my knowledge goes there is a lack of evidence upon the point. That indeed the Romans introduced any animal into Britain is an open question, Professor Owen views in the British Fossil Mammals upon

Every part indeed of the osseous framework of
 Bovus moschatus points - as you justly say
 towards the sheep & goat tribe and not
 towards the true ox. ~~Bovus~~ Bubalus and
 Bos moschatus ought to be erased from the catalogues

At Oxford,
 the other day, Mr George Griffiths asked me
 to tell you that the British Association
 committee hope that you will favour their
 meeting at Birmingham in the Autumn
 with your presence, and that all of us
 will try to pay due homage to the greatest
 osteologist in Europe by providing bed, board
 and the like. He told me that he preferred
 that the invitation should reach you in
 this ~~unpersonal~~ impersonal manner, than in all
 formality. I hope to have the pleasure of
 meeting you there.

If you care to have any of
 the doubtful homocous I shall be glad to send them
 M. Lacépède
 Rue Lacépède
 I am
 My dear Sir
 Yours truly
 Wm Boyd Dawkins