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195,

55 Upper Seymour St.

Portman Square

Feb. 19. 1866.

My dear friend

I have had it for some time much on my conscience that I have delayed so long in writing to you. The truth is that I am very bad in writing letters, & have had lately a violent attack of graphophobia. First let me tell you that I am glad there from Mr E. Christy a good amount of yourself & Madame Sartet. Next that the first number of the book looks very nice & that every one seems much pleased with it. —



As to the earnings on bone which we selected together last year I do not think it will be possible to have them in Paris for exhibition in 1867. Mr E. Christy has I dare say told you that a satisfactory arrangement has been come to with the British Museum. The picked collection of

all kinds of objects has been accepted by the
Museum on various conditions. The Museum has
hired Mr Christy's house in Victoria ^{the young} & the
collections are to be exhibited to students on one
day in the week. It so happens that the Archaeological
Institute, one of the principal Antiquarian Societies
in England, intend to hold its annual congress
this year in London instead of as usual in one
of the ^{& intend to make a section for Prehistoric Antiquities.} country towns. I am very anxious to get the
collection arranged if possible before this meeting
which will be in July, both to give a little éclat
to it & to do justice to Christy's memory. It
would be very incomplete without the Bretonne
specimens. Moreover one of the conditions which
has been made with the British Museum is that
they shall print within a limited time a catalogue
raisonné of the whole collection. For these
reasons I think it would be better that

our selection should come to Bayford this year.
 & I think that my co-Trustees would be of the
 same mind. I will promise you one thing
 which is that no one shall be allowed to draw
 any of the things intended for the Religious
 Antiquaries till they have appeared there. If
 necessary I can keep the reserved specimens
 in drawers but in truth no one will be able
 to draw anything without my express sanction.

As to the Spanish antiquities the case is very
 different. Till they are made over to the Trust
 by Mr Christy's executors we have nothing to
 do with them, & if they like it I see no reason
 why they should not be reserved till after the
 Exhibition in 1867.

Would there be any chance of you & Mr. Lartet
 coming to Bayford at the time of the Antiquarian
 Congress in July? You might see some of our
 private collections ^{& make arrangements about the exhib: of 1867} I should be very glad to

receive you here. How soon can I come to
complete the ^{selection} ^{& to remove the others}? You tell me that some
more drawings have been found at Les Epyies &
it would be prudent to pick up the selected
specimens carefully. I should wish one best
to go to Paris about the beginning of March.
& I presume you have quite done with the
specimens which are engraved ^{for the book}. I was much
obliged for the plates of the Mammoth. A friend of
mine has a theory that the tusks go into
the trunk  all the fossil skulls
show very  little space between the
tusks, too little for the trunk to work like that
of the ordinary elephant. - Think of this. I am
pleas'd you are pleas'd with the N. American bone
I was very much charmed when I found it in a
box. I name early in March because a sister of
mine is to be married at the beginning of April & we
shall then enter into the possession of the house in Victoria
St. & be very busy. My remembrance met Madame
Lafite & your son. Yours, very sincerely
Augustus W. Franks