



BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY,

Berkeley, cor. of Boylston St.

Boston, Mass., Dec 11 1878

Prof Dawson
Dear Sir

I take the first opportunity of replying to your letter to Mrs Carpenter and also to the kind postal subsequently send by you. The tone of Mrs C's first postal card to me I thought very singular and my impression was that she had made some mistake. Then came a letter from Chicago of similar meaning and the two set me to thinking over matters. I succeeded in recalling the fact, that Dr C. had either told or written me, that he would put some of his shells, I think a suite of British shells, in with our shells if we would agree to send the first set of duplicates to Chicago. I was about to write Mrs to Mrs C. when your letter came. I was not at all prepared for the very serious nature of the charge presented by this. It was bad enough to feel that

centus upon myself and I shall have to take the whole
blame. I do not think I can be held by any strict rules
of liability for property coming into my hands done up
in closed packages, and ~~coming~~ into and going out of
my hands in this way. In fact every step of this can
be proved if necessary, but I do not wish to take upon
behind strict rules. I hold myself responsible for
Dr. G's property and wish to make that good. I do not
wish to get even the suspicion of stain upon my honor,
which has never yet been justly suspected by anybody, if
it can be avoided. I have no intention of keeping this
matter from the Council, but on the contrary shall bring
it before them as soon as it assumes a definite shape.
The affair now lies, however, in our hands and I hope
we may be able to get to some definite agreement before
I am obliged to do this. Please let me know, what you
think to be right. I hope you will take this into consid-
eration with cool deliberation for otherwise it may lead to a
long and painful misunderstanding involving very dis-a-greeable conse-
quences to all the parties concerned in it. Very respectfully,
Alphonsus Spott.

I had unwittingly sent away even
a small collection of Dr Co's and
wounded perhaps the feelings of
his widow and here was another
accusation involving the property of a
third party. I have done my best to
remember, and though perfectly willing
to admit the fact, if it is one, I
cannot recall any conversation with
you about duplicates of the College
collection. If I had had such an
understanding I should have had
the boxes sent to Chicago and claimed
a portion of the expense from you.
There could have been no question
about disposing of a joint collection,
my authority would have been
ample for that purpose. I sent
all the boxes here under the im-
pression, that every shell in them
belonged to us. The confidence I
felt in Dr Co's work etc caused this
mistake to pass unrectified for
I did not open the boxes at all, and
sent them away accompanied by Dr Co's
catalogue. The gentlemen who advised
with me in this affair had no means
of knowing anything more than I
told them and therefore all responsibility

My respects to Alpheus S. Pratt.
I am very much concerned in it.

Wm. C. C. 1846

I have compared the paper
of the letter with Mrs C's account
in the circumstances what we
propose is that you should
refer to the Council (1) That
Dr C Mrs C & myself undertake
the ^{unconditional} ^{refers to the} ^{papers} ^{of the}
the ^{unconditional} ^{refers to the} ^{papers} ^{of the}
that supports it I put in
that all shares of Mrs C
as well as my collection &
that the claims of the
my ~~share~~ ~~very~~ ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~benefit~~
of Mrs C that since the arrangement
appears not to have been carried
out we think the Society should
make an ~~arrangement~~ ^{to} ^{replenish}
the ~~collection~~ ^{of} ^{one} ^{amount} ^{of} ^{the} ^{original}
and that we in our part
will give what we can
for the recovery of the
C's private collection and of your
collection here, 5 sh to replace
the ~~unconditional~~ ^{of} ^{the} ^{claims}
steadily was willing to pay them.