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My dear Dr. Sellards:

I am very sorry to have missed seeing you last week, and I know I should have made more definite arrangements.

Dr. Plummer and Mr. Adkins have presumably told you about my visit and the fossil collection I had with me.

During the last five years I have been able to amass a good local Claiborne collection. To give just some illustration of the size and quality of the material at my disposal now, I am mentioning:

There are 54 specimens of crabs belonging to 5 species of which 4 are new and found at 5 different localities.

From the locality Moseley's Ferry, Barleson County, I have listed 121 species of fossils; from the locality on the Brazos River, Brazos County, 110 species although I have made no special effort to obtain a complete set of Bryozoa or of other small forms. With but little more search for groups I had not been much interested in previously, and a little washing and sifting for smaller forms, the number of species from both localities would amount to about 200.

In the collection are perhaps 50 not described species. Recently I found a new species of the Gastropod genus *Vertagus* which genus seems to be new to the American Tertiary.

Some of the well known forms are represented in many individuals as for instance, *Conus Sauridens*, which ranges in this collection from juveniles of 0.9 cm. to seniles of 7.5 cm.

Dr. Sellards: (Con't)

As a whole, the collection is now in good shape and a good start for the study of the Claiborne.

Here is what I have been doing with it. Dr. B. C. Renick is working in this region and has interested me in the stratigraphy of the Claiborne. We have both made collections of various levels and carefully established a reference section. The results are:

(1) Crockett and Weches have separate faunas with but little similarity and few identical or closely related species. Many genera are restricted to the Crockett, others to the Weches.

(2) Good and easily identified guide fossils are present.

(3) Warm water forms as *Distoris* and *Conus* are probably restricted to the Crockett.

(4) Within the Crockett there are about 6 fossil horizons. Some of the guide fossils, it is true, may only represent local abundance horizons. Others, however, belong to clearly demonstrable evolutionary series and may therefore be reliable outside of this region. Of these evolutionary horizon markers, I have been able to establish three, each based on 3 guide fossils.

(5) The Reclaw in this region is poor in fossils and mostly lignitic.

These main results may suffice to show that much valuable work both in strict Paleontology and Stratigraphy can be done. And that is exactly what I would like to do, if possible.

The difficulties are:

(1) I have very little material from other regions. Especially lacking are good collections from Claiborne, Ala., Newton, Lisbon, and other type stratigraphic localities.

(2) There is little laboratory equipment available as sieves, specimen cases, etc.

Dr. Sellards: (Con't)

(3) Much of the literature is not here and I can not always pay the high express charges on books loaned from other libraries. Besides, those books can only be kept for ten days. I can not pay for much photo-stating.

(4) Although I can make trips to the immediate vicinity, I am not able to go to more expenses.

Of course, I could do some work quite independently by myself, but in this case the work would have to be merely occasional, and this is just what I would like to avoid. So much has already been done in this occasional manner, and the result is a great disorder. Unless one can work steadily and systematically for 3 to 5 years in this line the work might as well not be done at all.

I think that this work is of the kind which the Bureau would welcome and I wanted to ask you whether it is possible for the Bureau to help me. I would like to use my 3½ months summer vacations and my spare time in it.

Very sincerely yours,

HBS:SB

H. B. Stenzel