

# LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,  
GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATIONS AND SURVEYS  
WEST OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH MERIDIAN,  
*Washington, D. C., February 5, 1875.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report based upon the results of the examinations of the collections in zoölogy, made by the several field parties of the survey during the years 1871 to 1874, inclusive.

In the examination and identification of these collections, several gentlemen, eminent in this branch of scientific investigation, have cheerfully rendered valuable assistance, and their reports, together with those by members of the survey, constitute the subject-matter of this volume.

The general collation of the data and supervision for publication has been intrusted to Acting Assistant Surgeon H. C. Yarrow, United States Army, in addition to his duties as medical officer during and since 1872, in which he has manifested commendable energy.

Skilled assistance in this branch was had for the first time in the expedition of 1871; the services of Acting Assistant Surgeon W. J. Hoffman, United States Army, by detail through the Medical Department, and of Mr. Ferdinand Bischoff, having been secured.

In 1872, Acting Assistant Surgeon H. C. Yarrow, United States Army, with the assistance of Mr. H. W. Henshaw, and incidentally of other members of the expedition, accomplished most satisfactory results.

In 1873, the force was further augmented by the services of Acting Assistant Surgeons J. T. Rothrock and C. G. Newberry, United States Army, and Mr. John Wolf, collector.

The field operations of the survey require the services of medical officers in their professional capacity, yet not to such an extent as to preclude their availability for labor in other directions, hence their assignment to investigations in the important branches of zoölogy.

In an organization formed for exact geographical purposes, the auxiliary branches must of need be secondary to the main object; still, it is believed that this report will meet all just expectations, especially when the dependency under which the material was obtained and the limited additional expense incurred are considered.

The collections made have generally been large, and include a fair proportion of new and rare specimens. Many of them have been forwarded to the Smithsonian Institution, and a number of crania and osteological specimens have been collected for the Army Medical Museum.

The services of the gentlemen whose analytical reports are herewith, and of the officers of the Army who have rendered valuable assistance to the field parties, are gratefully acknowledged.

To Brig. Gen. M. C. Meigs, Quartermaster-General United States Army, who has so fully sympathized with the objects of the survey, thanks are due.

The active and hearty co-operation of the Medical Department, for which much is due to Surgeon-General J. K. Barnes and Assistant Surgeon-General C. H. Crane, in supplying medical officers with tastes for natural history work, has conduced largely to the gratifying results obtained.

For want of space, the final Botanical Report has been excluded, and will appear separately as Volume VI, embracing results to the date of its issue.

The accumulating material in the subjects of Ethnology, Philology, and Ruins will, as time and means permit, be consolidated into a separate report, with appropriate illustrations.

In conclusion, I beg to express my hearty appreciation of the services of the professional gentlemen who have been engaged in this field of research.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. M. WHEELER,

*Lieutenant of Engineers, in Charge.*

Brig. Gen. A. A. HUMPHREYS,

*Chief of Engineers, United States Army.*