# **Dickinson College Archives & Special Collections**

http://archives.dickinson.edu/

# **Documents Online**

**Title:** Letters from Spencer Baird to George Lawrence (Jan. – Jul. 1873)

Date: January - July 1873

**Location:** MC 2000.11, B1, F17

#### **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections Waidner-Spahr Library Dickinson College P.O. Box 1773 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

25.7. Malhing Im Dlo. Jan. 1, 1873 Dokota, where he will receive any Communication - Cotion in due Course of hime. We have just-unpacked the Alaskan birds, I find them to Contain a most-Charming Deries of various Alcadae, Tipa brevirostris, etc. his Not- is of Ro peculiar a Character that nobody get a Ringle specimen who does not come himselfin perden. There are duplicates of nearly every species, tyou never low Ro hand some a lot y phois in your life; both Kidgway & Dagiel in this. We expect a few weeks later another Ensignment from Doll. but you need not-wait for them unless you find it inconvenient & come Roomer, We thall be glad Dwelcome you Whenever you can visit us, tif you can bring Mrs Laurence with you it will be all the better. you need not be afraid of the Small pox, as the disease is, as for, on fined to the outskirts of the city of to persons of (the lowese Clapses who have failed to take the proper precultinary measures.

dur Sactor, who was here a day or two ago, has one of the moser extensive pays ing practices in Washing row, the said he had not yet - come into Communication with a Ringle Case. Varytuleflows. Gro. N. Lawrence Esq. 1)2 Fearl Street, New york. I shall have to be in My the end of Surray to meet my Labour off for furnay, and of you don't come Some Dean escent you back! Ask for Slavers ceners for Sould Lent extras 6 elles Como Tolo him to set ation that 20 servir of Alaskan birds, as I accepted his terms of would come for them?

Washington D.C. Jan. 1, 1873

Dear Lawrence,

Coues' address is Fort Randall, Dakota, where he will receive any communication in due course of time.

We have just unpacked the Alaskan birds, & find them to contain a most charming series of various <u>Alcadae</u>, <u>Ripa brevirostris</u>, etc. This lot is so peculiar a character that nobody gets a single specimen who does not come after himself in person! There are duplicates of nearly every species, & you never saw so handsome a lot of skins in your life; both Ridgway & I agree in this! We expect a few weeks later another consignment from Dall; but you need not wait for them unless you find it inconvenient to come sooner. We shall be glad to welcome you whenever you can visit us, & if you can bring Mrs Lawrence with you it will be all the better. You need not be afraid of the small-pox, as the disease is, so far, confined to the outskirts of the city & to persons of the lowest class who have failed to take the proper precautionary measures.

[Page Break]

Our doctor, who was here a day or two ago, has one of the most extensive paying practices in Washington, & he said he had not yet come into communication with a single case.

Very truly yours, S F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq. 172 Pearl Street, New York.

I shall have to be in NY the end of January to meet my Latimer eggs from Germany, and if you dont come sooner I can escort you back!

[The following notes in a different hand.]

Ask for Glaucis aeneas for Gould sent extras to Mrs Crane Told him to set aside that 2d series of Alaskan birds, as I accepted his terms & would come for them

(Washington, June 17, 1873, Dear Laurence, The number of Gould has Come thand, I am much obliged Lyon for it, I will return it soon. you are entirely welenne Delater & Schater any of our lighes that you have in your Cane. When I see you in New york I will arrange about Dhipping the prehage & Schoter. We expect & ame Thursday homing & Whe at the Fifth Avenue I total by evening, Dremain there two or three days. Very truly yours. Morand Go. N. Lawrence Eig. 172 Pene Street. New york.

Washington, June 17, 1873.

Dear Lawrence,

The number of Gould has come to hand, & I am much obliged to you for it; I will return it soon. You are entirely welcome to send Sclater any of our types that you have in your care. When I see you in New York I will arrange about shipping the package to Sclater.

We expect to leave Thursday morning & to be at the Fifth Avenue Hotel by evening, to remain there two or three days.

Very truly yours, S F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq. 172 Pearl Street, New York.

Pottand July 28, 1873. Hay den Lawrence. I have been very busily engoged, huice our arrival here in getting fairly started in our work, I do have been negligent in writing to your, but I have kept frutting it off for one reason touther, until now I fear you will Condide me very Eurifo. I have been mable however to find, any accommodations on the island, fuch as I think would finit his danvence. den own house has been tis full to over-Hlowing I we are extremely un comfortable in the jour, tit is even worse as of the other house near by. Our franty now accupies thee different houses, owing & its magnin tude. There are no hotels on the island, although several large, Crowded boarding houses at the doubten end, Clavin that nome. The accommodations are auch as you find in any Country boarding place, The attendance in the rooms & at table being entirely by members of the fourily, who, of course, Count be Called whom very feely for my

extra Lewice. The island is very delightful in its Aurroundings & queally quite cool. We have plenty of from as far as haddock, Cod of Curvers go, with an accasional Show of halibul- & macked. Ithink it very likely that later in the Leadon there may be quarters in home one or other of the houses around here & I should would be rinchied to try the experiment, in Case trere is a fair thow. You might compromise in (The matter by taking up your quarters al-The Holmouth House in Portland, which is a first- Clap catableshwell-with new Comfortable rooms & plenty of the best food. There are four boots to the island every day, which lands properges within about (the distance of three or four agricus, leav ing Partland at 8-45 to a quarter before 11 in the forewood of at a quarter before 2 of a quarter before 4 in the afternoon, so that you Could come over thee us as often as you pleased & go back in Comfortable time

for evening. Dorthand itself is a delightful breakly abounding in flesdand dives & rides, & I think you could have a very good hive. I have just-had a letter from ones, suforming me that he has taken thirty spec timens of Centronyx Fairlie, which of course, Carries the Species out of the trale of thevery great-rarities. If now he can get a good Stock of Spragues Lark & Leconles Benting we shall be pretty well brought up in the Appen Missouri brids. Very truly gows. Spenier J. Baird Gro. N. Lawrence Eig.
172 Pearl Street.
New york.

Portland, July 28, 1873.

## My Dear Lawrence,

I have been very busily engaged, since our arrival here, in getting fairly started in our work, & so have been negligent in writing to you; but I kept putting it off for one reason & another, until now I fear you will consider me very remiss. I have been unable, however, to find any accommodations on the island, such as I think would suit Ms Lawrence. Our own house has been & is full to overflowing & we are extremely uncomfortable in the jam; & it is even worse as to the other house near by. Our party now occupies three different houses, owing to its magnitude. There are no hotels on the island, although several large, crowded boarding houses at the southern end, claim that name. The accommodations are such as you find in any country boarding place, the attendance in the rooms & at table being entirely by members of the family, who, of course, cannot be called upon very freely for any

#### [Page Break]

extra service.

The island is very delightful in its surroundings & generally quite cool. We have plenty of fish, as far as haddock, cod & cunners go, with an occasional show of halibut & mackerel.

I think it very likely that later in the season there may be quarters in some one or other of the houses around here, & I should be very glad indeed if you & Mrs Lawrence would be inclined to try the experiment, in case there is a fair show.

You might compromise in the matter by taking up your quarters at the Falmouth House in Portland, which is a first class establishment, with very comfortable rooms & plenty of the best food. There are four boats to the island every day, which land passengers within about the distance of three or four squares, leaving Portland at 8-45 & a quarter before 11 in the forenoon, & at a quarter before 2 & a quarter before 4 past 3 in the afternoon; so that you could come over & see us as often as you pleased & go back in comfortable time

### [Page Break]

for evening. Portland itself is a delightful locality abounding in pleasant drives & rides, & I think you could have a very good time.

I have just had a letter from Coues, informing me that he has taken thirty specimens of <u>Centronyx bairdii</u>, which of course, carries the species out of the pale of the very great rarities. If now he can get a good stock of Spragues Lark & Lacontes Bunting, we shall be pretty well brought up, in the Upper Missouri birds.

Very truly yours, Spencer F Baird

Geo. N. Lawrence Esq. 172 Pearl Street, New York.