

Pressed by the necessity to obtain the requisite animal forms wherewith to illustrate his many and voluminous works, Professor Parker became a patient and indefatigable collector of morphological material, and at the time of his death his private cabinets stood among the largest and best in existence. As will be seen from what his distinguished son says, that collection is soon to be placed upon the open market for disposal. From my own personal knowledge, gained through a correspondence with its collector extending over a number of years, I can state that it simply represents a perfect mine of anatomical wealth, abounding in alcohols of the rarest of vertebrate forms, in carefully worked out skeletons of all the classes of the animal kingdom possessed of a bony skeleton, in unique types, and in a rich mass of illustrative material for the *Invertebrata*. Fortunate indeed will that institution be that can secure by purchase this great treasure, and I feel sure that American science is with me in the devout hope that it may as a whole be obtained by this country. More than a generation will surely pass by before such another opportunity will be offered our museums to so enrich their collections in departments of such paramount importance, — and yet it needs but a word from some one among the wealthy, or the timely action of our own government, to have all this conveyed to our shores. Think for an instant how the inpouring of that material would swell and fill the gaps in the collections of the United States National Museum. What a living repository of reference would be there for the students in science for ages to come. Let it be hoped that the bare

suggestion of the above facts is sufficient for our prompt action to secure for ourselves such a rare treasure as Professor Parker's collection.
DR. R. W. SHUFELDT.

Takoma, D.C., July 7.

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