

uals here are now much interested in public instruction, and I am satisfied that sooner or later my collection will be purchased, though nothing has been said about it lately.¹

For a closer description of my family of Lepidostei, to which belong all the ante-chalk bony fishes, I am anxious to have for dissection a *Polypterus Bichir* and a *Lepidosteus osseus*, or any other species belonging exclusively to the present creation. Hitherto, I have only been able to examine and describe the skeleton and external parts. If you could obtain a specimen of both for me you would do me the greatest service. If necessary, I will engage to return the preparations. I beg for this most earnestly. Forgive the many requests contained in this letter, and see in it only my ardent desire to reach my aim, in which you have already helped me so often and so kindly.

HUMBOLDT TO AGASSIZ.

SANS SOUCI, *July 4, 1833.*

. . . I am happy in your success, my dear Agassiz, happy in your charming letter of May 22d, happy in the hope of having been

¹ His collection was finally purchased by the city of Neuchâtel in the spring of 1833.