

The following letter was one of many in the same tone received from his European correspondents concerning this work.

FROM RICHARD OWEN.

*December 9, 1857.*

. . . I cannot permit a day to elapse without thanking you for the two volumes of your great work on American zoölogy, which, from your masterly and exhaustive style of treatment, becomes the most important contribution to the right progress of zoölogical science in all parts of the world where progress permits its cultivation. It is worthy of the author of the classical work on fossil fishes; and such works, like the Cyclopean structures of antiquity, are built to endure. I feel and I beg to express a fervent hope that you may be spared in health and vigor to see the completion of your great plan.

I have placed in Mr. Trübner's hands a set of the numbers (6) of my "History of British Fossil Reptiles," which have already appeared; a seventh will soon be out, and as they will be sent to you in succession I hope you will permit me to make a small and inadequate return for your liberality in the gift of your work