

C O P Y

Copy of proposed letter of N. Capen to Superintendent
Mt. Auburn, 1864.

Mt. Ida, April 1864.

My dear Sir:-

Sometime ago, you requested me to communicate the particulars respecting the remains of the lamented Spurzheim, and of their interment at Mt. Auburn, as it was believed by some that they were removed to Germany.

I will give the essential facts, and that you may have a complete record of the interesting particulars of his sickness, decease, and interment, I beg to enclose letters from Dr. James Jackson, Dr. Winslow Lewis, Dr. J. Mason Warren, Dr. Bigelow, Dr. J. B. S. Jackson,- and copies of the proceedings of a meeting of the friends of the distinguished Philosopher, after his death,- and of the Boston Medical Association.

Soon after Dr. Spurzheim's arrival in Boston,- August, 1832,- he honored me with his unreserved friendship, and placed his money and property in my hands, "to be taken care of," as he expressed himself,- and in addition to aiding him in preparing new editions of his works for publication,- I attended to his business. Although nearly twice my age, it was my good fortune to be much with him and to enjoy his instructive conversations. At the time of his arrival in this country, there was no greater philosopher living, and since his decease, time has fully verified the great value of his contributions to science. In 1833, I prepared and published an imperfect Biography of him, which was prefixed to his work on "Phrenology in connection with Physiognomy," in one volume, royal 8 vo. In the same year, "A Memoir of the Life and Philosophy of Spurzheim" by Andrew Carmichael, M.R.I.A. (1 vol. mo. 12) was published in Dublin, Ireland. Extensive notices of his Life and Labors were published in England, Ireland, and Scotland, France, and Germany, and his death was made the occasion of special meetings of several learned societies.

A few months after his death, I received a letter from George Combe, Esq., of Edinburgh, and after dwelling upon his beautiful character and important labors, he stated that it was the wish of Dr. Spurzheim, expressed when in Scotland, that his skull should be saved for scientific purposes. I did not feel at liberty to disregard a request so earnestly communicated, and as the remains were embalmed and still in the Receiving Tomb at Park St. Church, there was no obstacle in the way of its prompt execution. By my request, this sad duty was skilfully performed by Dr. Winslow Lewis, whose letter accompanies this.

In 18 Dr. Robertson, a distinguished Scotch Physician, resident in Paris, a class-mate of Sir Charles Bell, and a most devoted friend to Spurzheim by will, presented to the Boston Phrenological Society, his collection of Casts and Skulls, and appropriated two hundred francs to pay the expenses of their transportation. He also required that this Executor should save his own skull, and that it should be sent to Boston to be placed by the side of that of his beloved friend, Spurzheim, and there to remain forever. It was duly received, and his wishes have been strictly observed.

The Brain, Heart, and Skull of Spurzheim, and the Collection of Dr. Robertson, were deposited with the Boston Phrenological Society, to be kept while its organization was continued. Ceasing to exist, the Society in 18 transferred its large collection and these sacred relics to Dr. John C. Warren, Boston. Their present and future places of deposit are stated by his son, J. Mason Warren, M.D., whose letter is herewith enclosed.

In this connection, it is proper to speak of the Monument erected to the memory of Spurzheim the second at Mount Auburn, and by a respected merchant of Boston, recently deceased. It was an imported one, from Italy, and cost a thousand dollars or more. The bills were all paid by the Hon. Wm. Sturgis. In honor of such an example of munificence, the Boston Phrenological Society presented to him an entire set of Spurzheim's works and a bust of the Philosopher. These are now in the hands of Dr. Bigelow, whose letter I enclose. I beg further to remark that an excellent portrait of Spurzheim was painted, after death, by Fisher, which is now owned by J. Mason Warren, M.D. In conclusion, it is proper to state that the only Physician called upon to attend Spurzheim in his last sickness, by his consent, was Dr. James Jackson; and in consultation, Drs. Ware and Stevenson. I deem it to be my imperative duty to make this statement now, although I copied portions of Dr. Jackson's communication to the "Daily Advertiser," published soon after the death of Spurzheim, - in my Biography, and without making this correction. Dr. Jackson was led to believe by Dr. C. Grigg, that he was called as consulting Physician - and for reasons of delicacy, regared

sufficinet at that time, I permitted the statement to pass without correction.