Nashville May 30th 1820

Since my residence in this country which has been about 3 years, a number of curiousities have been discovered calculated to excite much inquiry and speculation with regard to the antiquity of this country. Every part of the east show remains of the Lakes, in positions of numerous mounds, some representing the form of a sugar loaf, others resembling fortifications constructed with much order and regularity as if designed for great military purposes. At the Caleb of this place whose curiosity led him to an investigation of a mound (not long since) in pursuit of those vestiges of antiquity which constitute the materials in part of this infant Museum, discovered at the depth of 9 feet from the summit a very light earth rose resembling ashes immediately above which there was a thin stratum of clay at 12 feet he discovered charcoal at 16 feet leaves, and at 17 feet puncheons with a mixture of bones and substances resembling human bones after having been burned, these substances when exposed to the air crumbled to dust. There are trees...
from 130 to 150 years old from their annular rings
or cerely —
It has ever been the custom of ancient nations
in entering their dead to erect funeral piles —
How far such a custom might have prevailed, or
reached a country so remote as this, by what
means and at what times, is a subject yet unexa-
lled —
In addition to the many curiosities and relics of
antiquity discovered in these mounds, there was found
near Fayetteville in this state a piece of Roman Coin
about 1 3/4 below the surface of the earth in a deep rav-
in washed by torrenties, of the silver is inscribed to
be very pure, the letter are rough and much worn
around the coin and near the edge are the following words
and letter, "On One side a figure representing a man,
in high relief with"
Commodus — AVG HERED
On the other side that of a woman, with a bow in her
right hand seated on a square box, with the titles
TRPV IMP III COS II P.P.
A piece of coin similar to this was found
several years previous to this in the town of Fayetteville
in this state, in the leg of a collar
Know this coin, by whom brought
of what time, and in what ways it may be connected with the other remains of antiquity, is a source of information anxiously sought for: that a correct account cannot be obtained is presumed, but that a chain of circumstances, connecting the best evidence from historical accounts, will throw much light on the subject is well known—

to solicit this from you in your declining years, when the mind is anxious to seek repose after the toils of a life devoted to the service of your country, I knew is unpleasant in the remarks that I should be at a loss to appeal to different resources, and have only to add that a subscription of my collected works on this occasion will confer the highest favour on your part.

P. Patterson
Patterson M. Nashville May 30. 20

Mr. June 21.