17 Papers, July 1878

EDWARD ATKINSON,
131 DEVONSHIRE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

Boston July 2. 1878

Dear Sir

The papers have arrived. You have greatly improved my form of letter to Miss W.

Perhaps it would be well to suggest to Mr Goodwin to go to the Institute and inspect for himself. We own much stock in factories and would be interested in the oil question.

Very truly

EA

Providence July 5th 1878

Dear Mrs Rogers.

On my return after a short absence, I found on my table the Memoir of the Hon: James Savage, your good Father; whose character I had learned to esteem and venerate long before I received the interesting Memoir of his life which you kindly sent to me. I have been very much interested in reading the details of his labors of beneficence as well as of Historical Researches, and more especially of his uprightness and justice in referring to the characters of the men of former days. His name will be cherished with honor and respect in future ages, as justly appreciating and truthfully recording historical events. His estimates of the untruthfulness of Cotton Mather, and of the vanity of John Hancock will be affirmed. — Your remembrance of me in sending the little volume, I assure is gratifying to

Your old friend, Zachariah Allen

Mass. Inst. Technology, Boston, Mass.
July 8, 1878.

(X)

President Rogers,—
Dear Sir,—

John A. Tobin, I think a Past Assistant Engineer in the U. S. Navy and for a short time a special student at the Institute has been to see me with regard to the creation of the chair of Prof. of Steam Engineering at the Institute, saying that if the Institute will request the President of the U. S. to detail such an officer from the Naval Service, he is sure that he can secure the appointment for himself and that he will receive his salary from the Navy Department under the act passed June, 20th 1878.

At his first interview he seemed to be unaware of the fact that any amount of instruction was being given at the Institute, now, in Steam Engineering. I informed him that, since our Steam Laboratory had been established, giving us better facilities, than we have for treating any other subject, more instruction is given in Steam Engineering than in any other subject which forms a part of

the course in Mechanical Engineering, that as much time is now given to it as seems to be for the interest of our students, that I had asked every year recently for additional assistance in the work of the Department and had been refused on Economical grounds

That if the Navy Department would send me a competent assistant who would act under my direction, as the Assistants in Mech. Eng. now do, so that I was sure the instruction given was the best that we could provide, I should be glad of the aid, and if after talking with you, it seemed to you judicious to request the appointment of such an assistant and if you thought the corporation would welcome such a movement, I would gladly take the initiative in making the request of the corporation, that they ask for the appointment of such an assistant. I further stated to him in substance that I should seriously object to the appointment of an independent Professor of Steam Engineering at the Institute. That while the Institute had expended a portion of the money with which the Steam Laboratory had been Equipped, much the large portion of it

had been obtained by my personal solicitation and a part of it from my own purse, I had also devoted a great deal of my own time to the design and arrangement of apparatus and to the course of instruction and that this time and the money which I had expended I did not expect would be repaid me, as the time and money were both spent at my own option

The Laboratory was not what I wished or what it could easily be made with more money or more assistance but it had reached a better footing each successive year.

That to ask me to give up the instruction in Steam Engineering to an independent Professor was to my mind much like asking me to resign one of the most important parts of my Professorship and I should of course object as strongly as I was able to the inauguration of such a scheme.

I said further that if the Navy Dept. wished to establish a Dept. of Naval Architecture or any School contemplated by the act referred to which did not interfere with the

work of the departments already established I should welcome it, if the new school was thoroughly equipped, in the hands of competent instructors, well supported by the Government and of the same grade as the other Depts. already established, but not otherwise.

Mr. Tobin said at the close of our interview that he had not before understood the relation of things at the Institute, that he should be glad to have the request made for the appointment of an assistant in Mechanical Engineering. I told him that I should wish first to consult you before making any more and as he seemed very anxious that immediate action should be taken I said that I would write you at Newport and perhaps go there to consult you.

He afterward came again to see me to ask that I would recommend the appointment of an independent Professor of Steam Engineering according to his first suggestion and read over a list of topics on which he felt himself competent to give instruction all of which are now treated upon in the course in Mech. Eng. I felt as if this was to say

the least an impertinance, after what I had before told him. I merely repeated to him the substance of what I have written.

He then said that he was going to Newport to see you about the matter. I have written this in order to let you know how I feel about a matter which very nearly concerns me.

If you think it desirable that any steps should be taken in either of the direction indicated I should be glad to have the opportunity of calling upon you at such time and place as is most agreeable to you.

I have an important engagement for next Thursday at the Institute. I shall send you a telegram so that in case he calls before this reaches you, you can know that this is on its way and delay giving him an answer until you have read it.

Respectfully Yours
Channing Whitaker
By G. B. W.

EDWARD ATKINSON,
131 DEVONSHIRE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

Dear Sir

I have your card of the 8th The meeting will be 11th at 10½ — Mr Little was engaged tomorrow — I do not expect many to attend but thought the notice would do good — Mr Mudge subscribes $2500 —

I have sent the various papers to Miss Woody

Mr Forbes is anxious to complete the circular and to get to work on outsiders

Sincerely yours

EA

July 9. 1878

15000
2500
2000
19500

Dear Sir

I have your card of the 8th. The meeting will be at 10½ — The Estate was appraised thus — I do not know if it will pay to attend. I think the notes would pay — The Study lot — worth $2500 —

I have left Harvard

before to this Office

The Office is anxious to complete the business but to get to work for returns

Sincerely yours

E.C.

July 9. 1878

Staunton Va. July 9th 1878.

X

Dear Mrs Rogers:

The electro came safely to hand yesterday - You have my most hearty thanks for it, and I will have it returned to you after I am done printing. The likeness is a speaking one. We all think it is so much like our good friend as we saw him here & so much enjoyed his & your company. I return you the proof, as requested. My eldest daughter reached home on the 6th. so we are having "a nice time", as the Misses say. We all hope Prof. Rogers is getting strong again, and we feel sure he ought to, for no one has a better wife to take care of him.

Now for some more of the endless line of questions (for all of which, past & to come, I beg pardon at one time). Did

you find the article or paper on the "Growth of Stalactites" &c, which Prof. R. said I should have the loan of? I cannot get hold of it anywhere.

I have rec'd from Gen. Humphreys the record of the artesian well at Fort Monroe and am the more anxious now that I have ~~seen~~ it, to see the paper which Prof. Rogers told me he had written & would let me peruse.

The other geological sections, especially the ones across E. Va. which Prof. R. said I must have would be quite acceptable.

I know you will aid me all you can consistent with the right regard for Prof. R's health, so I only mention these matters and "possess my soul in patience".

Mrs. H. will be glad to have the flowers you mentioned. They all join me in the sincerest regards. Don't forget the full trip this way. Our valley is very lovely now. I am just home from a few days with Prof. Kerr in N.C.

Yours truly Jed Hotchkiss

EDWARD ATKINSON,
131 DEVONSHIRE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

Boston July 10. 1878

My dear Sir

On Sunday I had a long talk with John C Ropes, who had lately been on the visiting committee at West Point —

He says there is an officer there named Michie — I think Peter S. — about 35 years old — a most excellent teacher skilled in mathematics and physics, well read and an excellent organizer — he thought him a very able man and believes him fully competent to control a large institution — I thought you might like to know about him and that perhaps during the summer you might have an opportunity to make further inquiry

Yrs most truly
Edward Atkinson

W. G. Pierce subscribes
$1000 —

July 13. 1878.

Dear Mr. Hemenway.

In writing to you in behalf of the Inst. of Tech. my thoughts naturally turn to the early days in its history when your sympathy & liberality contributed so much to our encouragement. ~~and~~ I venture to hope that the substantial educational work which the Inst. has been doing, so important to the well being of the community, may in your eyes seem worthy of a share of the generous consideration you are accustomed to give ~~have also always given~~ to objects of social usefulness.

For ~~a few years past~~ the Inst. owing ~~has suffered from~~ to the general depression of the times, the Inst. has been embarrassed by the want of sufficient means for carrying on its extensive Off. for practical teaching. To sustain its ~~high~~ rep. as a School of Practical Sci., embracing besides its general Depts. the Dept. of Women for useful activity in

various branches of Agr. &c. it is now felt to be necessary to secure a considerable addition to its funds.

On the resignation of the Pres^t — ~~recently~~ by Prof. Rankin a short time since, I consented to return for a time the direction of the School until the understanding that the Corp^n shall ~~[illegible]~~ early secure such addition to its resources as shall enable us to carry out the plan of the Inst. without any curtailment of its scope or usefulness.

A Comm. of the Corp^n is now at work for this purpose & after completing a Rubric: among themselves ~~which they~~ already liberally begun, will send out a circular which has been prepared as an Appeal to the public ~~&c~~ of which you will doubtless receive a copy.

But I feel that it is due to you as an ~~old~~ early friend & benefactor of the Inst. and one ~~to~~ whose helpful kindness I shall ever gratefully remember, to let you know the changes that have occurred,

[7/13/1878]

and to ask that should you feel inclined to ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ deem you deserve the generous consideration of former years you may have the opportunity of placing your name early on the list of the ~~Good friends~~ Subscribers ~~[illegible]~~ soon to be commenced.

I regret that it may not be in my power to ~~[illegible]~~ Mr. Bell by a personal interview, to ~~[illegible]~~ shew you in some detail the work ~~[illegible]~~ or the Art in which I am sure you would be interested, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~before you at present Read.~~ & I should be very glad to reply to any enquiries on the subject, that may be left to make.

Hoping that you are enjoying the season at your Summer, & with kind regards from Mrs. I remain dear Madam

Yours faithfully

W. B. R.

Mrs. Augustus Hemenway.

To Mrs Augustus Hemenway.

Readville Mass.

Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

F. W. PUTNAM,
Curator of the Museum,
LUCIEN CARR,
Assistant Curator.

Cambridge, Mass., July 16th 1878

My dear Prof. Rogers:

I don't know how to express my thanks for your very kind correction of my "history of Nashville meeting" I can only say that you have made a good notice out of a poor draft, and that all your corrections and additions are accepted with thanks. When I tell you that I wrote the notice, not only under great pressure of work, but under the awful trial of the severe sickness of my wife who was

obliged to undergo the severe operation of removal of a tumor in the breast, you will understand the state of mind I was in at the time. In fact all my work & all that has passed for the several months has been like a dream compared with a sad reality. Mrs Burbank is now well recovered from the operation & I have hope of the best of results.

For this same reason I did not feel up to pushing the matter of the assoc. meeting in Boston next year, and as we should certainly have a strong invitation renewed from Cincinnati, and probably also for St Paul & New Haven for 1879 it will be as well to let Boston remain for 1880

I do think that a strong movement should be made next winter, early, to get up an invitation for 1880, and it seems to me the best way will be to get the Academy, Hort. Hort. Soc. Hort. Sech. Board of Trade & other bodies to unite with the city & form a strong local committee, one that will work & make the Boston meeting the grandest of all that has been held. With a good committee we could have a splendid meeting & bring in hundreds of new members of the right kind.

You ask about the financial condition of the Assoc. I can not yet give the figures, but by Aug 1st I shall have my vol out of the way & all accounts settled & know how I stand, I can only say that while the exhibit will be far better than last year, as I now think, I am having a very hard time

in obtaining funds with which to pay all demands upon me & I fear the late reports of the heat in St Louis will make that meeting a small one. Should you feel as if the proposed help you intend giving the Assoc. could be done now as well as later I can only say that it will be most acceptable to me & save me considerable of a trial in the financial work. Still I should not like to have you send the check unless perfectly convenient & I know the present condition of all financial matters too well to ask you to do what may not be convenient at this time. I have left Mrs Rogers letter out of the report as you request, but such little kindly expressions do so much good I was in hopes she would let it stand though I wished for you to decide upon it. With the best wishes for your health & my respects for Mrs Rogers

Believe me dear Sir
Your much obliged
and obdt svt
F W Putnam

Prof. Wm B. Rogers
Newport R.I.

Isles of Shoals
July 19th 1878.

My dear Mr Rogers

I have your letter of June 26th which has been forwarded hither, where I came to escape the hot weather, by which I had been a little run down. You are quite correct in supposing that I still feel an interest in the Institute of Technology, and have very much regretted not being able to attend the meetings lately, but owing to the state of business and all kinds of property, my time the last year or two has been almost necessarily occupied in looking after my own concerns, and those of others,

I was sorry to hear of Prof Rumford

resignation, which is a great loss to the Institute, and am delighted to learn that you feel yr health is such, that you feel able to take up the work again, but my good friend, be careful that you do not go to work too hard, and break yourself down again —

I should be delighted to make a liberal subscription to the fund proposed to be raised for the Institute, but the truth is, the calls upon me of late have been so very large, many of them to help friends, whom I could not well refuse, that my engagements are very large ahead, and I cannot at present add to the list, but trust that before long, I shall be in a situation to do so, and the moment I am, you may depend upon my doing something more for the Institute, than which nothing would give me more pleasure —

With kind regards to Mr Rogers, believe me dear Sir,

With great respect

Yours very sincerely

— N. Thayer

X

Mass. Institute of Technology.

BOSTON, July 25 1878.

Dear Prof. Rogers:

In answer to your queries, I would say:

1. Prof. Ordway & I will get up a notice for the newspapers, & submit it to you for approval in a few days; & get estimates of what it would cost to insert it for 4 weeks in Boston, & 1 paper in each of the N. E. States, & 1 in each great city of the middle, western, northern & Pacific States.

2. I have about 500 catalogues left. They were sent to many schools, but perhaps not to enough. If you think best I will send off 200 to the

High Schools in New England.

3: In June 1878: were admitted to Regular School 34, of which 14 without conditions.
and 7 to Mech. Arts = 41.

In June 1877.
42: of which 7 without conditions
and 7 to Mech. Arts = 49.

In Sept. 1877.
20 to regular school: of which 5 without conditions
and 17 to Mech. Arts = 37.

Last Year's Entrances =
62 Regular School
24 Mech. Arts
86 in all.

Judging from demand for Catalogues I should think that the number in September would be rather more than last Year; so that I think about 60 will enter the Regular School for June & September.

The advertising has, I think, been too much neglected, from ideas of false economy: it seems to have been forgotten or overlooked that 2 or 3 students would pay for a large advertising bill! I think 2 or 3 or dollars ought to be spent semi-annually for this purpose, & Prof. Conway coincides in the opinion that we have not advertised the School sufficiently.

The weather here has been

not a sultry for the last few days, & you had better not come up at present for any but urgent reasons, as far as the School is concerned. Every thing is going on well here, as far as Prof. Ordway & I are concerned.

Hoping that the ocean breezes will give you needed strength, and with regards to Mrs. Rogers,

Yours respectfully

Samuel Medard

168

Cambridge. July 27, 1878

Dear Mr. Rogers.

I am truly obliged to you for your double invitation. Being entirely worn out with work varied by no vacation for three years, I cannot undertake to do what you have in view in preparing. Unfortunately I have lost all taste for recreation, poets, society, and everything but

sleep, and the Town and Country Club is not constituted for the encouragement of that.

It is with much regret that I confess myself so unavailable for any useful purpose. You don't know what I am losing from.

Please present my best regards to Mrs Sargent, and believe me

Very truly and faithfully yours,

F. P. Childs.

Mrs. Dupont Sargent.
Newport.

X

Newport July 28. 1878

Hugh Montgomery Esq.

Dear Sir

Remembering the interest you used to take in the meetings of our Society of Arts, & in the welfare generally of our Institute of Technology, I feel that you will not be indifferent to the effort which we are now making to secure an addition to it, referred. Having at the solicitation of the Corporation I have consented to resume the Presidency of the Institute for a time, and I am

can now especially assume to rally in its support the early friends whose sympathy & liberality contributed to its success.

The Institute has grown to be the leading school ~~of practical~~ of industrial science in this country, as well by the thoroughness of its studies as by the variety & extent of its laboratory & other practical ~~teaching~~. But out of the ~~leading~~ through the heavy financial depression ~~depressing influence of the times~~ now, its funds itself brought to the alternatives either of curtailing its present admirable scheme of instruction ~~in some directions~~, or of securing an addition to its funds.

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible]~~ Object of the Corporation and therefore works in direct contribution forward the latter object. The corporation of the Institute who have always been among its largest benefactors, ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ are among most in a liberal contribution. And ~~[illegible]~~ upon a careful appeal to the public for ~~[illegible]~~ for

Towards the latter object the members of the Corporation ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ are prepared to open a subscription & appeal to the public ~~[illegible]~~ for the aid to its benefit.

Toward the latter object the members of the Prof. who have always been among the ~~[illegible]~~ generous benefactors of the Inst. are making liberal contributions themselves and are preparing to circulate a circular & appeal to the public in behalf of the School.

Believing that you have much influence with Mr. Montgomery Sears, of whose great wealth & generous disposition I have often heard, I take the liberty ~~[illegible]~~ of asking that you would do us the ~~[illegible]~~ favor of calling his attention to the ~~[illegible]~~ character & claims of the Institute as a School of Medical Science ~~[illegible]~~ and ~~[illegible]~~ with the hope of so interesting him in its behalf, ~~[illegible]~~ as to ~~[illegible]~~ induce him to aid us in our Subscription.

Any doc.s or other Inform.n you may desire towards this end I shall be happy to furnish —

Believe me, dear Sir, with very pleasant remembrances —

Yours truly &c

O. W. B.

P. O. BOX, New York City.

U. S. Training Ship Minnesota,

New York Harbor,

July 29th 1878

Prof William B. Rogers

Newport R. I.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 16th inst reached me in due course of mail: this morning I have been favored by a visit from Passed Ass't Engineer Tobin of whom you speak in favorable terms.

Mr Tobin informs me that Professor Whitaker wishes the "Dep't of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering" to be subordinate to his own department of Mechanical Engineering. I sincerely trust this will not be done, as it will defeat, the great object we have in view. The better plan it seems to me is to institute a seperate department of Naval Architecture and Steam En-

gineering and start with instruction in the latter at once.

This I presume you can do, as it will not increase your expenses, the head of the Department — an Engineer Officer of the Navy — Mr Tobin, I hope — being paid by the Government. I am extremely anxious, to see this started, as I think Naval Architecture must soon follow, as a matter of course.

I hope, my dear Sir, you will urge this matter with your colleagues. & have a chair for Mr Young friend Tobin to occupy in the Fall — With kindest remembrances to Mrs Rogers I am yours faithfully

S. B. Luce
USN

Mass. Inst. Technology
July 29th 1878

President Rogers

Dear Sir,

As some provision must be made for the Geology of next year I have had some talk with Prof Niles with reference to an extension of his ground. He has other engagements till the first of February, but could give one or two lectures a day during the latter half of our year. In the catalogue we have mentioned General Geology, American Geology, Chemical Geology, Coal and Ore Deposits, and Building Materials, which were given by Dr Hunt, Structural Palaeontology by Hyatt, and Physical Geography by Niles. Mr Crosby has assisted Prof Hyatt in laboratory instruction.

Coal and Ore Deposits should be given by Prof Richards in connection with Mining.

Building Materials include something more than stones, and instead of ten lectures there should be a course of twenty lectures at least on Materials of Construction taking in lime, cement, plaster, bricks and tiles, artificial stone, woods, metals, paints, fibres, &c.; and this belongs rather to the department of Industrial Chemistry.

The nature of unformed rocks could be taken up by Mr Crosby in a course of laboratory exercises.

Dynamical Geology and Physical Geography could go together. As we do not need any partisan statement of geological theories, American Geology and General Geology might as well be included in a single course. Mr Niles could give nearly all that he and Dr Hunt have given and extend the subject to cover a somewhat different ground. He is ready to undertake the work if desired to do so, but with reference to the pay for the work, I can make no proposition. I have asked him to call on you, and I hope it will not trouble you too much to consider the matter so that the Committee on the School may take some action in due season.

If Prof Niles had his work permanently increased, of course the salary must be adjusted accordingly. He could do best to give his popular lectures in the lecture season and give us the last part of our school year. Since talking with him, the matter of salary has been thought of more particularly. I know not what the Committee would think of putting the whole work on Prof Niles, but if they think favorably of it, they would perhaps think it not exactly right to give full professor's pay for half the year's work. He would give as much time to the exercises themselves as has been given, and probably more, but it

might seem to some of the faculty that leave of absence for four months every year would be unfair. Prof Niles feels that it is an advantage to have a professorship and not be a mere popular lecturer. It gives him the standing place, the ποῦ στῶ, from which to move the world more effectively. He can therefore forego the greater pecuniary profit of giving his popular lectures during our spring term. Perhaps three fifths of the regular professors' salary would be right. It should be more than half, for the work would be condensed and greater while it lasted.

Please give some thought to this matter, and excuse the liberty which I have taken in referring Prof Niles to you.

It is desirable to hold a meeting of the Committee on the School next week, for the Mechanical Engineering department needs attention

Respectfully yours
John M. Ordway

Newport July 30 - 1878.

Dear Prof. Ordway,

I have regretted that on my visit to the Bazar I have had no opportunity of talking with you on various matters relating to the coming opening of the School. I have lately had some correspondence with Prof Harkness on the subject of adopting the Institute. When I think of your kindness in arranging his course made us unusually helpful.

I shall be very glad to see Prof Niles either here or in Boston if he shall be prepared to come to Newport. Please say to Prof. Niles that I shall be very glad to see him & very much hope we can arrange with him. As to the arrangement of the school studies I shall be very happy to leave this matter in your hands. Shall it be convenient, otherwise I will come to Boston when I am at the Institute on my first visit at an early day.

As regards the question of salary, it must be said that until we have a permanent Accession to our resources, we shall be precluded from making any engagements involving further outlay — & indeed — we must work rather at — curtailment in this respect.

The short comings in the Geol. Dept. heretofore have been — the want of systematic Lab: instruction in Geology — in the neglect of Geological Drawing, & most of all the omission of active field — training in stratigraphic & other practical work.

Whatever permanent change shall be made in the Dept., we must aim to supply these deficiencies.

Should Prof. Niles decide to meet me here, please say to him that he had better come by the 3½ P.M. train & stay with me till the next afternoon, as it will give me great pleasure to have him at my house —

I am writing to Dr. K —

to call a meeting of
the Committee of School
for next morning at
which time I shall
hope to see you
Meanwhile I remain

W. B. R.

Newport July 30. 1878.

Dear Mr. Atkinson.

In most of my letters lately written to interest persons in behalf of the Dist. I have spoken of ~~and referred to~~ the proposed Circular & Appeal to be issued by the Committee, as a source of further information, & I suppose that in some cases my correspondents may be waiting to receive this document,

before replying to my request.

I infer, from not hearing from you on the subject, that the subscription has not been materially increased since your last letter; but I shall be obliged if you will let me know exactly how it stands. It may be thought

[July 31, 1878?]

Dear Mr Atkinson —

Your note enclosing Mrs Hughes's & your own letter came duly to hand. I received ~~enclosure~~ ~~the~~ letter from Mrs H. on yesterday. I am pleased to find that ~~Mrs H.~~ her ~~determination~~ mind is not ~~fixed~~ ~~set~~ on Conditioning her gift — it ~~would~~ ~~not~~ in a way to ~~make~~ create embarrassment — on the part of the Corporation.

Mrs Rudland & the Prof — ~~have~~ who left on Friday ~~been spending~~ ~~been here~~ a day or half — with us. ~~So when your letter came~~ ~~from left yesterday morning~~ — ~~do not~~ where ~~with~~ The conversation was about the form of her reply to Mrs H.'s question. Her letter marked yesterday morning to Mrs H. will I think satisfy her on the subject of her question. ~~Hoping~~

~~Wilford Commenting on Anti-Orange Intensity~~

in a way that would I hope encourage
the genuine interest in the Institute.

When in Town on Wednesday
I made two unsuccessful
attempts to see Mr. Cussons,
& I found that Mr. Thayer
from Oldham I have not yet
heard – has been at the
~~Beaumont~~ Isle of Skye
for Lerwick Quarter –
remain yet longer –

I ~~have~~ – think it of
some utility that visits to
Stonewall for the future
Very Respt. Yrs.

John Faithfully
W. B. R.