19

Papers, January 1881

X

117 Marlborough St.
Boston Jan. 1. 1880

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 1st was duly rec'd. ~~I have spoken with Mr. Ro. C. Winthrop, personally~~ It always gives me pleasure to be remembered by my Roxbury pupils, & to serve them when I can able, ~~and~~ I have spoken with Mr. Winthrop in ~~regard to~~ regard to your ~~letter~~ application & have left with him the printed testimonials ~~which you~~ mentioned in your letter, which I have no doubt will be duly considered by the Board of Trustees.

With best wishes, I am
Yours very sincerely
W. B. G.

dear Sir
Rev. J. Jones.

Jan 1st 1881

Dear Mr. Sabin,

It gives me the pleasure to ~~inform~~ announce to you that by a recent vote of the Corpn of the Inst, your position in the Corps of Instruction of the ~~Inst~~ School has been advanced from that of Instructor in Mechanics to that of Asst. Prof in this department, and further that in view of this change, and with the understanding that you are giving to the Institute the full amt of service originally agreed on, your salary ~~after Jan 1st 1881~~ shall be at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum.

In mentioning this Corpn I desire to express to you the high esteem in which your talents & ~~[illegible]~~ services are held by the Corporation of the Institute.

~~[illegible]~~ — and to assure you of the good wishes & respects of

Yours very truly

Dec. 27. 1881 W. B. R.

117 Marlborough St.
Boston Jany 3. 1881

Dear Prof. Newcomb.

I will you allow me to ~~request~~ appoint you to prepare a Biographical Memoir of the late Prof James C Watson, to be read to the Academy, or should ~~if not~~ you ~~decline the task~~ will you oblige me by some one of the Astronomers of the Academy, whose knowledge of the deceased & his labours would fit him especially for the duty.

I thank you for the copy of Part III Vol I of Astron.

Papers – on Velocity of Light – which reached me some time ago. Believe me with the best wishes of the season

Yours faithfully
William B. Rogers

Prof. Simon Newcomb.

Chicopee Falls.
Jan 3d 1881.

W. B. Rogers Esq.,

Dear Sir.

Wishing to become a student at your Institute and hardly knowing what course to pursue, I wish to ask you a few questions in regard to it. I want to be a first class mechanic, that is to be able to design machinery and if needbe, build it. I suppose, "Mechanical Engineering" is the course that will give me these things, but does this have the Carpentry, Pattern Making, Forging and etc. as in

the "School of Mechanic Arts" If so that is the course I shall take, but if I take that course I should want to begin in the second year and make a three years course of it. If that is the one you think I want will you kindly inform me how far I should be advanced in the studies for instance, Algebra, Chemistry, Rhetoric and English Composition, are finished the first year, I suppose, but how far should I be in French, Geometry, Trigonometry, English History, Literature, and Mechanical Drawing to pass examinations.

Please let me know whose books you use in the several studies.

I have been to the High School in this place and as the school was somewhat run down have not studied some studies I should have. I've had some Free Hand Drawing, and but very little Mechanical Drawing. Please answer at your earliest convenience and oblige.

Yours Truly
W. Page.
Chicopee Falls
Mass.

P.S. Please send your latest Catalogue.

Answered
Jan. 5, 1881

SOCIETE DE GEOGRAPHIE,
184, BOULEVARD ST. GERMAIN,
PARIS.

JAMES JACKSON,
Delegate,
CARE C. A. COLBY, 22 NASSAU STREET.
P. O. BOX 3351.
NEW YORK.

Sent Cat: Jy. 16. 1881

New York, January 8th 1881

Sir

Before leaving Paris a few weeks ago I received a request from Colonel Aimé Laussedat, Directeur des Etudes à l'Ecole Polytechnique Paris, that I might forward him some documents concerning the various establishments where scientific instruction is given in this country, more especially in the technical branches. Any documents that might relate to the programme of studies, to the disposition & organization of such schools, giving plans of the establishments & laboratories, if procurable, would be of considerable interest.

Trusting that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology may have published some such documents & that you may feel at liberty to dispose of a copy of them, I would respectfully beg that you might favour me with such an invoice that I might in my turn transmit to Colonel Lautedat who will highly appreciate its value & certainly derive advantage from the information thus procured.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Very respectfully yours
James Jackson

To the President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Boston Mass.

271 Madison Avenue,
New York.

f

Jan 10th 1881

Professor Wm. B. Rogers
President National Academy of Sciences

Sir

In accordance with the wishes of the family of my late father I write to suggest that it would be very agreable to them if Professor Geo. F. Barker should be appointed by you to deliver the address to the Academy. I feel sure that

Professor Barker would gladly pay this last tribute of respect.

Yours truly

Henry Draper

Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C., Jan. 10th 1881.

Dear President Rogers,

Your letter of the 3rd which arrived while I was absent in the North West to look after matters connected with Professor Watson's estate gives me great pleasure because it seems to indicate that your health is improving since the meeting of

the Academy.

I think it best under the circumstances that I should undertake the preparation of the memoir; I will however discuss the matter with Mr. Hilgard who strikes me as an available person and perhaps in a more convenient situation to do it than myself.

You no doubt feel a great interest as to the situation of the estate so large a portion of which is bequeathed to the Academy. There is no reason to doubt the genuineness of the will both moral and legal, but the estate will be a most difficult one to wind up owing to our colleagues great fondness for

business enterprises.
There is also room for a
good deal of trouble
owing to the relations
between him and the
University at Madison but
I have not given up the
hope that the authorities of
the University may act in a
spirit of fairness.

With best wishes for
your health and kind re-
gards to Mrs Rogers I remain

Very truly yours

S. Newcomb

Prest. W. B. Rogers
117 Marlborough Street,
Boston, Mass.

117 Marlborough St
Boston Jan.y 10. 1881

Dear Prof Mallet.

Some years ago, I think in 1875, I ~~mentioned~~ spoke of you to Prof. Henry, as a desirable member of the National Academy, & the following season, he, with several other members, joined me in sending in your nomination.

There was already quite a long list of nominees, and as the rules of the Academy limit the election to five at any one stated meeting, the majority of the names were dropped, yours among the number. I was not present, or the nomination would probably have been repeated, for

for a future Meeting.

There are now fifteen nominations before the Academy, some of them presented for a second & even for a third time. At the last Meeting only two new members were elected, making a total membership of 100, and although there is no rule limiting the number there is a disposition at present to a slower increment than heretofore. As several Members have died within the year, it is probable that several new Members will be elected, at the Meeting next April, at which time I wish to have your name presented again, to be balloted for, as our rule requires, at the next following Stated Meeting of the Academy.

I enclose a printed slip from our Bylaws — as lately amended, expl.g the method of the election for membership

L S L —

W. B. R.

Prof. J. W. Mallet.

Jan. 11, 1881

Dear Admiral Rogers

I have not forgotten your interesting letter, rec'd while I was at Newport last summer. I owe you an apology for having so long delayed to acknowledge it.

The meeting of the Am. Assoc. for the Adv. of Science in Boston about which I was for some time busy & my cleaks for many weeks afterwards, must furnish my excuse.

I often think of your wishes & efforts in regard to a new site for the Observatory, & I regret that I am so little able to aid them.

During the summer I would dispose of a point of Mr Morse to Newport & have an interview with him & found him seemingly well disposed though without committing himself as to future action

If you have any news that you can communicate of the progress of the Dolphin I shall be greatly interested to learn it.

Mrs Rogers who has for some time been laid up by a severe strain has recovered & I have returned to my usual health.

Anticipating the pleasure of seeing you soon in Wash^n & with kind regards to Mrs R. & yourself pr. which my wife desires to remember I am

Yours faithfully

W B R.

P.S. – Would it be asking too much of you to let me know the result of the trial?

Rear Admiral John Rodgers
Naval Observatory Wash^n DC

117 Marlboro' St
Jan 12. 1882.

Dear Prof.

Your letter of the 10th reached me this morn.
I shall be most happy to comply with your suggestion in regard to the biog: memoir of your honored father.

I had already thought of Prof. Barker as a most suitable person to prepare it & I shall shortly write to him appointing him to that duty.

I have felt the loss of your father keenly, for, although it has not been

my good fortune to meet him often, I have always taken a deep interest in his scientific career, marked as it has been by so many original & important contributions.

I have felt I think a peculiar sympathy in the philosophical spirit of his investigations & writings & I believe that his fame as a scientific worker & thinker is destined to meet a higher recognition than it has yet attained.

Asking you to accept for yourself & the family an expression of my sincere sympathy & kindest wishes ~~believe me~~ I remain

Yours faithfully

Prof. Henry Draper.

X

Mass. Inst. Tech.
Boston, Jan. 12, 1881.

Pres. Wm. B. Rogers,

Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 10th inst. received. In reply we wish to say that we have received from the Secretary of the Interior the reports for which we asked with the exception of the one for 1875, the edition of which is exhausted. Also, that we received blanks from the office of the Secretary which we filled out, acknowledging the receipt of the reports, and forwarded them to Washington. Mr. Winslow and I are very grateful to you and thank you very much for your kindness in obtaining these books for us,

We remain, very truly yours,

Webster Norris.

Arthur W. Winslow

University of Virginia
Jan 13th 1881

Prof W. B Rogers.

My dear Sir

I hope you cannot sympathy with our efforts to remedy the serious defect in the astronomical equipment of the University of Virginia and our earnest effort to divert into a scientific direction a greater part of the of bright intellect of the South which wastes itself in law & politics will justify me in your eyes in being importunate with regard to the Telescope Fund. The amount required to secure the endowment

and thus fulfill the conditions of the gift of the Telescope and Observatory is $10.000. Of this amount I have undertaken (as a labour of love) to raise $5000-. To do this I am trying to prior Nine Alumni and friends of the University who will join me in giving $500 each to the fund - the subscriptions to be good when Six have assented (this as I may be able to get the $2000 in smaller sums). I say simply to show that I am willing to do in this matter that I & my household are already subscribers to the amount of $700 & the $500 which I speak of above is $500 additional - Our people are very poor & feel poorer than they are - but from Virginians at home I have gotten about $12000-.

I hope you will not consider me impertinent or importunate in the above proposition - but always believe me to be

With affectionate respect
Yours most truly
Chas. S. Venable

[ca. Jan. 13, 1881]

Dear Prof Venable,

I wish I were ~~in my power to~~ able to respond at once & fully to your request made in your letter of the ... inst. But I feel obliged to consider the needs of the Northern as well as other export classes, & the cases of Mrs R & hopeless - far short of our best wishes. I will venture to promise to contribute one half of the first hundred on the completion of the subscription - and to give the remaining half next October - so that in this sense you may consider me as subscribing. Please let the Mrs ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] see you a check.

With ~~Please present the [illegible]~~ kindest regards to all your friends & believe me

Yours faithfully

WBR.

117 Marlborough St.
Feb. 21. 1881.

W. F. B. Poertig

Dear Sir.

I enclose the promised testimonial, to which I have given

840

Naval Observatory,

Washington, D. C., Jany 14th 1881

Dear Professor

I am much obliged to you for your good offices with Mr Morse in converting him partially if not wholly to a more Catholic spirit in regard to selecting the site for the new Observatory —

We was by agreement to select a Professor

from Harvard to act as umpire on his part, between his views and mine —

I gladly consented to this — but so far this arrangement seems to have fallen through

I infer from a letter from Professor Pickering in answer to one of mine to him that Mr Morse will not get an umpire from Harvard

Professor Pickering says "I do not think he will select an astronomer from this State, as our views differ from his, regarding the best use of a large Telescope"

Senator Whyte was to get two gentlemen from John Hopkins University in Baltimore, and Professor Morse one from Harvard — Senator Whyte got three — President Barnard of Columbia College

New York, and Professor Rowland and Dr Hastings from John Hopkins University, selected by President Gilman of the same University —

These gentlemen met in Washington I have taken them over the ground and their views are precisely those of other Scientific men — I presume they will soon make an award — I do not know what it will be — but I think they will take Mr Barber's — the one

[1/14/1881]

which you preferred
— I remember with
great pleasure your
visit and that of Mrs.
Rogers whom I regard
as a most efficient ally
by quietly indoctrinating
sound views, without straying
from her own hospitable
board — I beg you
to give her my kindest
regards, and my best
thanks —

Very truly yours
John Rodgers

University of Virginia, Va.
Jan 15th 1881

Prof Wm B. Rogers,

Dear Sir,

Some time ago, you were kind enough to send me an article taken from the Proceedings of the Boston Soc. of Nat. Hist. pp. 14–18, in which you mention two species of Posidonomya, and two of Cypris, as found in the Mesozoic of Va. & N.C. In pencil, you made note that one of the Cypridae, with a smooth shell, had been named Condona? Rogersii, and one with a granulated shell, C. Emmonsii. This note leads me to think that Mr J. Rupert Jones has seen and studied these forms from the Mesozoic. I am anxious to know if he has published anything about them, and especially if he has compared them with similar species from the Trias and Lias.

I am anxious to know what study has been made of the Crustaceans from the Virginia Mesozoic, because I found last summer near Farmville, in the Mesozoic, several of these fossils, one or two of which may be new. One of them is nearly two centimetres long and one wide. If any comparative study has been made of these fossils I would be glad to know of it. If not I would like to place my fossils in the hands of some competent person for study, I would then be very much obliged if you would inform me concerning what has been done. I am especially desirous of knowing what the evidences of the animal life is, as I am now preparing the text for my memoir on the fossil flora of the Rhaetic of Virginia. I have been successful beyond my expectations in finding fossil plants in the Richmond Coal Field. I have many new and very interesting forms, but have found nothing to change my opinion that these beds are Rhaetic in age, possibly ranging somewhat higher. Indeed I have so many forms that it will take 25 or 30 quarto plates to illustrate them, and they will furnish a fairly complete representation of the flora of that period. It will cost too much for me to afford to publish the work, and I will have to offer it to some society.

Pray excuse me for troubling you, but you will understand that I want all the light I can get on the subject of the age of these beds.

Very truly Yours

W. M. Fontaine

Soc. Arts.

23 Murray St.
New York
Jan 17. 1881.

Gaetano Lanza Esq.
Dear Sir
Your letters to Mr Van Nostrand were received and the last one bearing date Jan 11th is before me.

The question propounded in your first letter was submitted to me as Editor of the Magazine, and I was requested to make the same answer to your inquiry that I made to the publisher Mr Van Nostrand.

This was to the effect that while I saw much advantage in the possession of the right to the first

use of papers so valuable as those of your Society, and moreover while I would gladly accept three fourths of the collection of essays submitted, I did not see how we could engage to publish all such papers in full without materially changing the character of the Magazine.

I added that as such a proposition would quite materially and properly be opposed by ~~such~~ the members whose papers met with curtailment, I could not imagine a basis of agreement which would result in publication in the Engineering Magazine.

The Society of Arts would naturally discuss many sub-

jects which engineers would consider as of secondary importance to themselves.

I should consider it very fortunate however as I intimated before to gain for the Magazine of which I have charge, the privilege of being first to publish the greater portion of the papers of your society.

Very truly yours

Geo. W. Plympton

Editor of Van Nostrand's Engineering Magazine

Univ. of Virginia
Jan. 20. 1881

Professor Wm. B. Rogers
Boston –

My dear Sir

Many thanks for your kind note of the 15th inst.

Since I wrote to you I have been informed that it is necessary for a candidate for membership in the National Academy of Sciences to be an American citizen – If this is the case it settles the question of membership so far as I am concerned, as I am still a loyal subject of Queen Victoria –

I am exceedingly glad to learn that your health has become reestablished, and no longer interferes with your usual

occupations — I hope that either when you come to Washington to one of the Academy meetings, or ~~weeks~~ when you make one of your geological explorations within the boundaries of Virginia, we may have the pleasure of seeing you again at the Elmwood. Mrs Mallet and I would be delighted to welcome Mrs Rogers and yourself beneath our roof —

I am, dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

J. W. Mallet

Richmond Buildings,
26, Chapel Street,
Liverpool, 24 July 1881.

Prof William B. Rogers
Staunton
Va

Dear Sir

Being largely interested in minerals generally and in Manganese in particular I read with interest your remarks in the Virginian & shall be very much obliged if you know of any one wanting a market for their ores to give them my name. I see your minerals in hov. notice. Manganese occurs at Little Fort Valley shall be glad of a line about it at your convenience. If in return I can be of any service to you I shall only be too happy.

Yours faithfully
Geo. G. Blackwell

Copied -

X

117 Marlborough St.
Boston Jany 26. 1881.

Prof. Wm M Fontaine
Dear Sir.

Prof. T Rupert Jones ~~has~~ made a special study of the fossil Entomostraca for several years, ~~& published several~~ Bernds notices on the subject in the ~~Quarterly~~ 18pp 8vo Journal of the Geol. Soc. of London. ~~but especially~~ he published a Monograph of the fossil Estheriae in the ~~Memoirs~~ Papers & the Paleontological Soc. for 1862. 4to. 134 pp. This includes an Appendix relating to the fossil Cypridae or Candonae as he includes to call them.

In this Monograph he ~~has~~ carefully ~~the~~ ~~pays~~ special attention to ~~these~~ & detail the specimens from Va. & the Carolinas & Pa. forwarded here chiefly by myself or directly or through Prof. R. D. R & G. Emmons & others.

Have you seen Jones's Monograph? & Prof. Lesley's Report? Marlboro' county W. Va. fossil leaves? & fresh-water fossils? Prof. Rogers' Report? Prof. Emmons' Report? Prof. Redmond's Report?

comparing them with each other and with specimens from other countries — and referring in each case to the question of geological age. ~~It would~~ Before ~~publishing~~ publishing ~~anything on~~ your own observations on the subject, I advise you to consult this Monograph, ~~which~~ ~~you~~ I am sorry to say that it is not to be found in any of our Boston Libraries — though I think they have it in the Zool: Museum at Cambridge. But you could not fail to find it in the very complete Palæont: Lib: of the Phil: Ac: of Nat: Sciences which is comparatively accessible to you.

~~The first find of Estheria~~

My Dr. specimens were collected in the Juniata Sandstone ~~of~~ near Calcoffer's ~~&c~~ &c, ~~Pa~~ ~~Victoria Chester Co~~ ~~of the~~ near Gaines' &c, ~~&~~ the vicinity of Farmville — of the Tar of Roanoke ~~&~~ Halifax Co. Va. of the Chest. ~~basin~~ & Pottsville Basin Pa. ~~of the~~ &

in what I call the Juniata-Sandstone, as upon ~~the~~ Calcoffer's near Gaines &c. in Bucks Co. near Farmville, in Halifax near Junction of Roanoke & Banister — in the Chest. & Coal basins — also in the Dan River & Deep River States basins of N. Carolina, and near Phoenixville Pa. I was pleased to find that Prof. Jones confirmed the opinion I expressed to him ~~upon~~ that the Estherias from these various localities were undistinguishable, & that the two species Cyprinus & Candona ~~were identical~~ were the ~~apparently~~ ~~same~~ common to Pa. and Va. &c.

~~You do not mention~~

There is a locality ~~near~~ N. & W. of Farmville which I have often wished to revisit, as it furnished me ~~only~~ forty years ago — ~~with~~ the only

of a Mollusc

~~Mollusca~~ traces, I even met with in Our Mud, Secondly. It is near Cook's Mill (as they call) on the Little Walla Walla River - in blue sandstone ~~slightly~~ Calcareous, containing casts of the Mollusc. with fast Scales ~~& so~~ ~~& [illegible]~~ resembling the Shells of that formation. ~~Most unfortunately~~ I found it difficult to get any ~~clear~~ perfect Specs: of the Shell, at the time of ~~my~~ the visit, and failed to return to the locality - & most of all I am ~~[illegible]~~ unable to find the few imperfect Specimens I brought away. But I have a distinct remembrance of the form of the Shells (suggesting a Belemnite) & of their being embedded in the coarse greenish rock. I ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ should like ~~to~~ go with you in search of this locality - When I go South as I ~~[illegible]~~ expect to do in the Spring.

Massachusetts Charitable

Mechanic Association.

BOSTON, January 29 1881

William B Rogers Esq.
President Mass Institute of Technology.

Dear Sir.

The Board of Government of the Mass. Ch Mechanic Association at a meeting held in the 24th inst considered the preamble and votes relating to the interests of the Association in the Mechanical School of the Institute of Technology, as stated in the paper received from you Jany 21st inst, and by vote unanimously accepted the conditions proposed by the Institute.

Your communication I have copied in my records and return

the same as requested by you.

Will you please let me know the credits our association have, or are entitled to, at the present time, — if any — in consequence of not having supplied the number of pupils entitled to send under the original agreement.

Very truly,

Joseph L. Bates

Secretary.

Our interests in these Scholarships commenced in September 1876.

Joseph L Batz
Naz Char Ass^n
January 29. 1881

Jan. 29. 1881

(X)

Dear Prof Walker

As the Corporation of the Institute at their Meeting to be held on the 9th of next March will naturally look for some direct information as to your purpose in regard to the Presidency of the Institute I wish if possible to have some statement from you which I may communicate to them at that time.

I called on Mr Hyde soon after he had seen you in Washington & learned from him verbally what you had requested him to say to me on the subject, but I have not felt it proper to ~~communicate~~ mention the matter to any one but Mr Cummings.

If you will write to me to same purport & in such other form as you think proper I request, &c

Postponement of your decision until later say sometime in April I think it would be satisfactory & I believe that the Corporation would appreciate it.

~~Now, if for the~~ sake of the Institute that you will be ready to take charge of its administration by the beginning of the next scholastic year. I remain with best wishes & regards

Yours faithfully

William B Rogers

117 Marlborough St
Jan. 24. 1881

Prof Francis A Walker
Wash. DC.

Jan 24. 1881

At a Meeting of the Corpn. of the Mass. Inst. of Tech., held Dec. 1880, the President ~~[illegible]~~ was asked that the sum required to be paid, by the Corp., had been received by the Treasurer of the Inst. who asked that this sum remain a permanent Fund under the name of the Nash ~~legacy~~ the income of which is to be used and the Pres. be requested to ~~[illegible]~~ a suitable acknowledgment ~~for the same~~ to the family of the utility of the Institution, & the fitness of the Nash.

In communicating this vote of the Corporation of the Institute, ~~which~~ ~~[illegible]~~ I have much ~~[illegible]~~ pleasure in expressing to the family of Mr. Nash, the ~~Grateful~~ the grateful feeling with which the Institute accepts this generous gift of the ~~[illegible]~~ testator in which the ~~[illegible]~~ held by the Corporation. I do add that from a long personal acquaintance, I am grateful to think that his interest in the

Gift of Mr. Nash for endowment of Chair of Chemistry

Voted That this sum remain a permanent fund the income of which shall be used for the purposes of the Institute

The President requested to write a letter of thanks to the family of Mr. Nash to be spread upon the records of the Corp.

To Mr. Nash's heirs –
Jan. 1881.

January 1881.

Report of the Committee of the National Academy of Sciences on the restoration of the Manuscript of the Declaration of Independence.

Prof. Wm. B. Rogers. Pres. of the National academy of Sciences

Sir. The Committee of the National Academy of Science to which was referred the question of restoration of the faded writing of the Original Manuscript of the Declaration of Independence respectfully reports:

That in the judgement of the Committee it is not expedient to attempt to restore the Manuscript by chemical means, partly because such methods of restoration are at best imperfect & uncertain in their results, & partly because the Committee believes that the injuries to the document in question, is due, not merely to the fading of the ink employed, but also & in a large measure, to the fact that

press-copies have been taken from the original, so that a part of the ink has been removed from the parchment.

Your committee is therefore of opinion that it will be best either to cover the present receptacle of the manuscript with an opaque lid or to remove the manuscript from its frame & place it in a portfolio where it may be protected from the action of light, & furthermore that no press-copies of any part of it should in future be permitted.

Wolcott Gibbs Chairman
J. E. Hilgard
J. Lawrence Smith
R. E. Rogers.
C. F. Chandler

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