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Papers, May 1881

DAILY ADVERTISER
EDITORIAL ROOMS,
27 COURT ST.

BOSTON, May 2, 1881.

Dear President Rogers,

I hear that Prof. W. R. Ware has a call from Columbia college, New York. May I ask if there be reasons why his services here can be dispensed with? I owe Mr. Ware no thanks for anything, but as far as my information goes I should consider his leaving a great loss to the community and also to the Institute. On grounds of general policy I should prefer him to stay. But perhaps you have your choice in the matter, and may care to see me or to write. In any case please count upon my discretion. Greatly as I respect Ware, I place public interest above all personal concerns. Hence this little note, which I beg you to construe in my favor.

The memorial volume of the Natural History Society, I think, is an honor to us all, and we laymen are deeply grateful for it.

Renew my expressions of esteem and filial affection.

C. W. Ernst

President W. B. Rogers

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON.

May 3, 1881.

President W. B. Rogers, L.L.D.
Mass. Institute of Technology.
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear sir:

I desire to enter my son, Harry P. Barr, in the Institute over which you preside, at the beginning of the next academic year. He will be 17 years of age in July, and up to within a short time was being prepared to enter Dartmouth. He is well grounded in Latin and Mathematics, and generally a fair scholar. He has however,

been engaged in the study of French but a short time, and it is doubtful if he can be prepared for the examination in that language so early as the June examination. Under your rules, can he submit himself for examination in June for all studies except that and Algebra, deferring until September the hearing in those branches? I think it necessary for him to thoroughly review his Algebra the coming Summer.

If you can furnish me with a list of questions heretofore used, so that I may satisfy myself of his ability, I will be greatly obliged to you.

Very truly,
Your obedient servant,
Thomas F. Barr.

Answered —

U. S. Naval Observatory,
Washington,
May 3, 1881.

Professor Wm. B. Rogers,
President of National Academy of Sciences,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor herewith to transmit copies of a correspondence in regard to the approaching Transit of Venus.

The Members of the Transit-of-Venus Commission are yourself, as President of the National Academy of Sciences, Professor Simon Newcomb, Dr. C. P. Patterson, Superintendent of the Coast & Geodetic Survey, Professor Wm. Harkness, and myself, under an Act approved June 10, 1872.

Your advice and assistance are too valuable to be passed over. Can you meet us, or must you confine your opinions to written ones?

I shall propose to the Commission when it meets to ask you to nominate a committee from the National Academy to assist in formulating the desires of the country in the premises, and to recommend that a new Commission be appointed to carry out the views thus enunciated.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully Yours,

John Rodgers

R. Admiral,

Superintendent,

President of Transit of Venus Commission.

[Encl. 5/3/1881]

(Copy)

Department of State,
Washington, April 28, 1881.

The Honorable
William H. Hunt,
Secretary of the Navy.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information and consideration, a copy of a note from Sir Edward Thornton, the British Minister at this capital, in reference to the action which has been taken by the Royal Society, with regard to making arrangements for observing the approaching Transit of Venus; and notifying this Government that the Royal Society is prepared to receive any communications on the subject addressed to its President, Burlington House, London.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
James G. Blaine.

Enclosure. Sir Edward Thornton to Mr. Blaine, dated April 11, 1881, — copy.

(Copy)

Washington,
April 11, 1881.

The Honorable
James G. Blaine,
&c. &c. &c.

Sir:

In compliance with an instruction which I have received from Earl Granville, I have the honour to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury have acquainted His Lordship that they have deputed to a committee of the Council of the Royal Society the preliminary duty of reporting to Her Majesty's Government for approval what arrangements should be made, so far as Great Britain is concerned, for taking part in the observations of the approaching Transit of Venus.

The Committee, in order to discharge this duty, feel the necessity of knowing

[Encl 5/3/1881]

what part in the same work is to be undertaken by Foreign Governments who are likely to take active steps for observing the Transit.

I am accordingly instructed by Earl Granville to communicate to the Government of the United States the nature of the task intrusted to the Committee of the Royal Society, and to state that they are prepared to receive any communications or suggestions on the subject addressed to the President of the Royal Society, Burlington House.

Earl Granville will also be glad if the Government of the United States will name the authorities with whom the Committee may place themselves in communication in order to facilitate an exchange of views.

I have the honour to be, with the highest consideration, Sir, Your obedient servant,

Edwd Thornton

[Encl. 5/3/1881]

For the purchase and preparation of instruments for the proper observation of the Transit of Venus which is predicted to occur on the 6th of December, 1882, and to enable the Secretary of the Navy to organize parties to observe the said Transit,

dollars;

to be expended under the direction of a Commission composed of the Superintendent of the Naval Observatory, the three Senior Professors of Mathematics in the Navy, the President of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; and the President of the National Academy of Science is requested to nominate five members of said Academy to act as an

Profs. A. Hall. Newcomb & Harkness

Appropriations for Transit of Venus
of December 8, 1874.

Total, $177,000.

as follows:-

$ 2,000	(for instruments)	March 3, 1871.
50,000	(for instruments)	June 10, 1872.
100,000	(for organizing parties)	March 3, 1873.
25,000	(for completing Obs'ns & return of parties to U.S.)	June 23, 1874.
$ 177,000		

advisory committee with the before-mentioned Commission, in determining the best methods of observing said Transit of Venus, the stations to be occupied, and the instruments to be used: Provided, That no contracts or engagements shall be made for the purposes mentioned above to an amount exceeding the sum hereby appropriated: Provided also, That no part of this appropriation shall be covered into the Treasury until the objects for which it is made shall have been accomplished: And provided further, That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby authorized to detail a vessel of the Navy to convey parties to the points selected for observation with which there is no regular communication.

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C. V. RILEY, *Chief*, WASHINGTON, D. C.
A. S. PACKARD, Jr., *Sec'y*, PROVIDENCE, R. I.
CYRUS THOMAS, *Disbursing Agent*, CARBONDALE, ILL.

(1460—1000.)

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF THE

U. S. Entomological Commission,

HEADQUARTERS,
No. 1700 13th St., N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

May 5, 1881.

Prof. W. B. Rogers,

My dear Sir:

I learn that you did not succeed in personally seeing the President in relation to Dr. Loring. May I beg you to address a brief letter to his Excellency urging upon him the necessity for a change and expressing your views of the fitness of Dr. Loring for the position. If you care to send the same through me I will see that the President gets it. I make the suggestion in the interest of agriculture and of science, and because I know how much influence a few words from you will have.

Sincerely Yours,

C. V. Riley.

From Capt. C. V. Riley,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

CENSUS OFFICE,

WASHINGTON.

May 6. 1881.

Dear Prof Rogers.

I have just now received a charming letter from Brush, full of good kindness.

Nothing remains to prevent my proceeding to the work of the Trustees of the Institute, I hope that I found to be in the direction you indicated.

I need hardly say that were there any opposition whatever within the Board, or were any doubt entertained by any member of the Board as to

the propriety of the selection. I know he is willing to undertake the charge.

Mrs Walker and myself looked for you at the station on Wednesday, but did not succeed in finding you before the train moved off. Whether from the crowd, or from some change of your plans, I do not know.

With kindest regards to Mrs Rogers, I remain,

Ever truly yours

Francis A. Walker

Prof. Wm. B. Rogers, LL.D

Boston —

Bureau of Navigation,
Navy Department,
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

TO THE

SUPERINTENDENT, NAVAL OBSERVATORY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Transit of Venus

Naval Observatory,

Washington, D. C., May 9th 1881

My Dear Sir —

I enclose a draft of a paper in regard to the coming transit of Venus — If it meets your views I shall take it to the Secretary of the Navy who if he approves it, will until Congress meets, re-habilitate us for the purpose of acting as a commission

The Secretary may take the paper to a Cabinet

meeting — but that is his affair —

In the draft I send, Prof. Hall is included in the regular commission to which he did not belong in the previous one — The previous law mentioned two professors of the Naval Observatory — The proposed law mentions three of them — Hall is so good a man in temper and in acquirements, that I personally shall be glad to have him to consult with

I venture to suggest to your better judgment the following names —

Peters, C.H.F. (Litchfield Obs)
Pickering, E.C. (Harvard)
Langley, S.P. (Allegheny)
Young, C.A. (Princeton)
Newton, H.A. (Yale)

By a rough estimate I put $50.000 as enough for the coming transit of Venus — but it will

be matter of consultation
depending upon what
is to be bought, and
what stations occupied

I hope Mrs Rogers
and yourself get on comfortably
to your destination —

Be kind enough to
give her my best respects

Very truly yours
J W Rogers

Rendent Wm B Rogers

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

May 11. 1881.

President Rogers —

Dear Sir —

As I have already made known to you, I have received an invitation to take charge of the instruction in Architecture presently to be established at the School of Mines of Columbia College in the city of New York, and invitation which I have not found myself in a position to decline.

I must accordingly,

though with great reluctance, ask the Corporation to accept my resignation of the position in the Institute of Technology which I have had the honor to hold during the last sixteen years, to take effect on the first of October next.

I am very truly

and respectfully yours

William P. Ware

Stated Meeting of Corporation May 11th 2d Wednesday

1881. Mess. Atwell, Lincoln, Carver, Parker, Webb, Roff, Lothrop, Rice & W.M. = 9

(1) Read Letter of Gen. F. A. Walker - accepting the Position of President of the M.I.T.

In conversation he recently informed me that his work on the Census was so near completion as not to interfere with his assuming the duties of the Place at the Opening of the Institute next October -

(2) Mention the death since our last meeting of Dr. Geo. B. Emerson - A Committee of the Pres. Mr Rice & Dr Lothrop to prepare a Appropriate resolution of the occasion

2. Present Prof. Ware's Letter of Resignation - &c - Shall this take effect at close of School in the Spring?

Read Letter of Ed. Cabot Esq - which has not

3. Nominate Prof. [illegible]

The Pres. was requested to answer Mr Ware & express the acceptance of his resignation with an expression of the Earnest regrets of the Corporation at losing the services he has so long & faithfully rendered to the Inst.

Adjourned to Meet at Rooms May 18 at 3½ P.M. to appoint a President of the Inst.

No. 1330 Nineteenth St. (NW)
Washington. DC
May 15. 1881

Prof. W B. Rogers.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of receiving during the past week your note of the 8th inst., also the pamphlet which you returned by registered mail.

Allow me to express my gratification at the action you have taken, and to thank you for the interest you have shown in the welfare of the officers of the Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Should the President

himself appoint the Commission at the request of the Secretary, and upon consultation with the National Academy of Sciences, I think that a harmonious result would eventually be secured.

With great respect –
I am –
Very truly yours
Edward Goodfellow.

Meeting of Comm. on Rot. 16 May.

Present –

1. Report of Comm. about Morgan's Pay of the two Teachers in Work Shops.
2. Report of Committee on Shop Fire.
3. Report of Joint Com. of Fac. & Committee on the conferring of Degrees Out of Course to certain Students of former years who were not allowed to graduate, because of failure to comply with prescribed Conditions but whose subsequent work & attainments may be thought to be equivalent for these shortcomings.
Mr. Woodbridge spoke on and at Sec. Notice this published by Mail & they have thanked him for it, in a formal letter of Sec?
4. Mention Prof Comm's letter to Hon Dep. Sec. which makes it certain that the Sch. of Mines is not entitled to more than the Detail for Military Dept – & did not it seem except in connection with some other Sch.
5. Communication Prof Ordway's letter recommending the purchase of a new Steam boiler – Ref to Com on Buildings –
6. Consider & take action on Comm. of Ed. Cabot – respecting wiring of Dorm & Mass. Fire Ins. in the Matter of Dorm in Building & Assets. Vote not expedient.
7. Mention Mr. Waite's request to be allowed to withdraw at once in order to secure a desirable place offered him – On learning from Prof Ord. that Mr. Waite's work was already completed – except for them in the Dec. – I recommend to grant my assent – & Mr. C. has just left for his new place in the West – (allowed)

over,

8. Mention Prof. Langa's application to be allowed an assistant in his Department – at $520. He urges the great amt. of work falling to him – &c.

9 – Prof. Richards stated to the Faculty the fact that his time & labors required for this duty, & he stated that he must either give this up – or be relieved of a part of his duties of Prof. – The arrangement proposed – is to give to Prof. Crosby the subject of determinative Mineralogy & Petrography. What amount of duty in the line of this work is field & laboratory – & this leaves Prof. Richards teaching to Mining Engineers proper – Prof. Crosby would undertake the additional work for a suitable increase of his present compensation – Presented

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY.

Boston, May 16 1881

Voted that the scheme suggested by Mr E. C. Cabot for establishing a School of Architecture in connection with the Museum of Fine Arts is not consistent with the plan and course of instruction in the Institute and may not therefore be recommended to the Corporation.

Mass. Institute of Technology
May 17. 1881

Mr. Cox:

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY.

Boston, May 16 1881.

Pres W. B. Rogers,

Dear Sir.

I send the Record book of the Com. on Instruction.

The (duplicate) reports of the Joint Committee on withheld degrees were mailed to Mr E. S. Philbrick Saturday for his signature, but their purport was as follows,

– That Messrs Parsons (C.O) '73 and Means (W.K) '74. are recommended for the Degree. Their deficiency was only the thesis and their work since is accepted as an equivalent,

– That Mr Woodbury '73 be advised to apply to the Faculty to see what examinations he would have to

pass in order to obtain the Degree in the course of Mechanical Engineering or in the Elective course, as he could probably obtain one of these degrees more easily than the one in Civil Engineering.

Very respectfully yours,
Robert H. Richards,
Secretary
per W. J. Rich

HARVARD COLLEGE
OBSERVATORY.

Cambridge, May 17, 1881.

My dear Sir,

In reply to your favor of the 16 inst. it will give me much pleasure to serve on the advisory committee of the National Academy to assist in the plans for observing the coming transit of Venus.

Very respectfully yours,
Edward C. Pickering

To Professor Wm. B. Rogers,
President of the National Academy.

for Prof. Pickering
May 18. 1881

Special Meeting of Corp.ⁿ for electing Pres.ᵗ.
May 18 1881.

1881

The President stated that in pursuance of the authority given him in conjunction with the Com.ⁿ on the School to select a suitable person for the Presidency of the Institute & to offer such person a salary of $5000 per annum: ~~he had had separate~~ personal interviews upon Genl. F. A. Walker as a gentleman especially fitted by acquirements & character to fill the position, & that they had persuaded Genl. Walker to the acceptance of the Pres.ᵗ. for election to the Office of Pres.ᵗ of the Institute at a salary of $5000 per annum.

The President after speaking of the very high estimate he had been led to form of Genl. Walker's qualifications for the Presidency, stated that by correspondence & personal interview he had been assured that he would be ready to enter on the duties of his appointment by the 1st of Oct.ᵇʳ next. Prof. Rogers then tendered his resignation of the Presidency of the Inst.ᵗ to take effect Oct.ᵇʳ 1st 1881. Which being accepted, it was voted to proceed to Ballot for Genl. F. A. Walker for President of the Institute at a salary of $5000 per annum during from Oct.ᵇʳ 1st 1881. When he will be expected to enter upon the duties of his office.

~~It~~ ~~I trust that~~ It will
~~may~~ certainly be a satisfaction
~~to me, greatly the object of my~~
~~selecting a professor to~~
~~make~~ to make ~~Brook~~ Brook's chair as
~~will be attended with the~~
~~of an expectation of this~~
~~which has hitherto been~~
~~may be realized~~ be realized
Reason the Sympathy & the
Cooperation of your Society.

It will I assure you be an
important consideration both as
to make ~~Close~~ and choice of the Professor as
may secure the Sympathy
& Co-operation of your Soc^y, &
of the Profession at large.

I need hardly say the ~~other~~
the Institution has ~~highly~~ highly appreciated
Prof Warren's work in the School & sincerely
will have with great regret
Yours faithfully

My dear Mr. Cabot —

~~Yours~~ In the press of
the ~~business~~ afternoon & evening
which comes off tomorrow
morning — I ~~cannot~~ reply in
any detail to your very ~~interesting~~ letter of
last night —

The Corporation of the School will
meet ~~at a special~~ to consider the
~~School, when the subject~~
~~of selecting~~ of a Prof. to take
charge of the Dep^t of Architecture
in the Inst., will be considered —
The Department will doubtless
be carried on as at present with
~~with provision for the future, for~~
~~the present~~
relating to Construction —

~~Thanking you for your offer~~
to the School —

Special Meeting of Corporation to elect President
May 18. 1881.

1st Meeting of Corp.n May 25th at 3½
for Studying Vote for President
3 3/4 – Special and New Meeting –
Thomas said bring Corp. – ~~Corporation~~
~~Organization~~ –
President's Salary voted – in distinct terms –

[1881]

Special Meet. of Corp. May 25. Continued from May 18th.

1. Votes for F. A. Walker — Votes Recd all in the Affirmative.

17 Votes constituting a Majority of the Corp. F. A. Walker is declared Elected to the Presidency of the Institute, his term of duty to commence Oct. 1. 1881.

2. Voted that the Salary of the Pres. be fixed at $5000 per annum, counting from the above named date.

Dispatched

Special Meeting of the Corp. called for the purpose of electing a Sec.y — May 25

1. Resolved that the Officers to be elected shall not be expected to act either as Sec.y of the Fac. or Sec.y of the Sec. of Arts — but simply as Sec.y of the Corporation & of the Coun. in the School & the Committees of the Corporation —

Explain the Change from the

Princeton, N. J.
May 18, 1881 —

Professor Wm. B. Rogers
Pres. Natl. Acad. of Sciences

Dear Sir

Yours of the 16th is received informing me of my nomination as one of an advisory committee of five members of the National Academy, to act in cooperation with the Government Transit of Venus

commission. I am greatly obliged to you for the honor conferred, and shall be glad to serve to the best of my ability.

With the highest respect, I am, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly

C. A. Young

P.S. If not improper, I should be glad to know who are the other four members of this advisory Committee.

C.A.Y.

for Prof. Young
May 19. 1881.