115 Papers, May 1881

x

117 Marlborough St
Boston May 19. 1881

Dear Genl. Walker.

Owing to the absence from home of several of our Corporation & the illness of others the meeting yesterday over, though a large one, fell a little short of a majority of the whole, which is necessary to an election. The meeting was therefore continued over until next Wednesday, keeping the polls open, and at that time the result will be formally declared.

The votes yesterday were all in the affirmative and only three more are needed

to consummate the election.

Our Corporation is a numerous body, most of them very busy men, and such delays as this are not unexpected.

Yours faithfully

William B Rogers.

Naval Observatory,

Washington, D. C., May 19th 1881

President Rogers

Dear Sir

I received your letter of the 12th inst. and am very glad to find you approve the draft of the paper in relation to the Coming transit of Venus

I have shewed it to the Secretary of the Navy who approves it, and who I believe intends to present it to the President

who with his known interest
in scientific matters may
be glad to find a paper
put before him which has
no reference to politics
and which for the moment
may give him rest from
labors which must be full
of weariness and unquiet

Professor Newton of Yale
was put in as a sop
to an institution which from
its prominence would expect
to be noticed, which has
so extensive a clientage,
and who on account of his own
ability in mathematics, is
possibly the most prominent
man, on the subject of the
paper, in the college —

" It would I think
be eminently proper as
you suggest to write to
such gentlemen as you may
select, to ask them to come
to the November meeting of
the Academy there to
discuss the best methods
of observing the transit of Venus
the stations to be occupied

and the instruments to be used" — as well as the amount of money needed as an appropriation —

After this discussion we shall know what to recommend and what to do —

May I suggest that you as President of the Academy invite Patterson and Harkness to attend the November meeting to discuss the Transit of Venus, they being government commissioners — and therefore properly present on the discussion —

Very truly
John Rankin

117 Marlborough St
Boston May 19 '81.

Dear Mr Cabot

Your communication of the 8th inst. in behalf of the committee in charge of the School of Drawing & Painting of the Museum of Fine Arts, handed to me by Prof. Wm R. Ware, was submitted by me to the committee on Instruction of the Inst. at its meeting on the 17th inst. Whereupon the following vote was passed.

"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 & course of instruction in the Institute & may not therefore be recommended to the Corporation"

In communicating this decision of our Committee I wish to assure you ~~that~~ & those whom you represent of the very friendly interest felt by the Committee & by all the members of the Corporation of the Institute in the developement of your Museum which is already doing so much for the cultivation of a taste for the Fine Arts in this Community.

With warm personal regard believe me dear Sir

Yours faithfully

William B. Rogers

Edward C. Cabot Esqr

ALLEGHENY OBSERVATORY,
ALLEGHENY, PENNSYLVANIA.

May. 19. 81

Dear Sir.

I am obliged by your kind communication of May 16th, and in relation to the matter of the Committee of the Academy on the Transit of 1882, it will afford me pleasure to serve, where you have been good enough to nominate me.

I am with much respect
Your obt Servt
S. P. Langley

Professor. William B Rogers
Prest. Natl. Acad. of Sciences
117 Marlborough St
Boston

from Prof. Langley
May 19. 1881.

Yale College
May 19th 1881

Professor W. B. Rogers,
Pres. Nat. Acad. Sciences,

Dear Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge your favor of the 16th inst. appointing me upon a committee to cooperate with the Commission for preparations respecting the coming Transit of Venus.

I shall be most happy to do anything in my power to secure the proper observing of the Transit, and cheerfully accept the appointment.

I have the honor to be
Yours Most truly
H. A. Newton

From Prof. H A Newton

May 20. 1881

Litchfield Observatory of Hamilton College,

CLINTON, ONEIDA CO., N. Y.

May 19. 1881

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

Dear Sir,

Your letter of 16th inst. informing me, that you have appointed me as one of five Members of the National Academy to compose a Committee of co-operation with the Transit of Venus Commission to mature plans for observing the Transit in 1882, — is duly received. With pleasure I accept the honorable trust, and I will endeavor, as best as I can, to do the duty you impose upon me; — thanking you in the same time for the flattering confidence you place in my humble forces.

With great respect —

Yours very truly
C. H. F. Peters

From Prof. Peters.

May 21. 1881

117 Marlborough St.
May 21. 1881

To the Faculty of the M I T.

My dear friends.

I had intended to meet you today to announce the election, just completed, of Gen. Francis A Walker, to succeed me as President of the Institute, but I am advised by my physician to stay at home during the present damp weather.

Hoping to be with you at your next meeting I am with the best hopes for the future of the Institute

Yours faithfully
William B Rogers.

Pres. Rogers.
May 21. 81.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY.

Boston, May 21 1881

Dear Sir.

The Advertiser of this morning, I believe, announces the appointment of Francis A. Walker. President of Mass: Institute of Tech: He is in fact at this moment elected, and would suggest your sending him a telegram to this effect so that the news may not first reach him through the papers. Since beginning this note Prof: Richards has been to me to say that last evening Herald states that Walker has been elected President, and asks if this is strictly true. At this moment a student comes to inquire about the new President.

We had 14 votes at meeting. Since then Cummings, Whitney & Cobb have voted, and endorsed their ballots

X

Fort Barrancas Fla
May 23rd 1887

To the
President of the Mass I. of T.

Sir

I have the honor to remind you of my earnest desire to obtain the detail at your Institution. The vacancy will occur next month, and an application from you to the Hon Sec'y of War, would certainly be acted on at once.

There is no one who can be as much benefitted as myself by the position under your charge, as my home and dependents are there, and inferentially no one would make a more

honest endeavor to give satisfaction. I can assure you that the detail would be the equivalent of $1000.00 a year to me personally and therefore correspondingly desirable if only viewed as a financial operation. But for more reasons than pure benefit, am I anxious to secure the place.

I am Sir

Very Resp'y

Your Obt Servt

W. B. Homer.

1st Lieut 5th Arty

address after June 5th

Fort Brooke

Tampa Fla

Mrs. Mary Jane H.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
May 23d. 1881

President William B. Rogers
Dear Sir,

The announcement in your note of Saturday, of the election of Gen. Francis A. Walker to the presidency of the Institute was received by the Faculty with a general expression of satisfaction.

The Committee to whom this note was referred beg leave to say that we appreciate the generous and self-sacrificing spirit in which you resumed the direction of the Institute three years ago, and have carried it safely through a critical period of its history. Very thankful that you have been able to continue at the head till prosperity has dawned upon us, we must admit the justice of your claim to be relieved from the duties of an office involving so much care and labor and acknowledge that it would be ungrateful to ask you to bear the burden longer.

While regretting that the need of rest is such as to impel you to withdraw, we are much gratified to learn that the choice for succession has fallen on

a gentleman of high reputation and eminent ability, who can carry forward the Institute in accordance with its original design and its established character.

Though in coming years you may no longer be of us, we hope that you may long remain with us to rejoice, with encouraging sympathy in the prosperity and advancement of this Institution to whose establishment and extension you have freely devoted so many years of a well spent life.

Respectfully yours

John M. Ordway

Robert H. Richards

Wm. H. Niles

Committee of the Faculty.

No. 1330 Nineteenth St. (NW)
Washington. DC.
May 25. 1881

Prof. W. B. Rogers
Dear Sir,

In the belief that your interest in the subject which I brought to your attention recently has not abated, allow me to enclose herewith a copy of the reply of Secretary Windom to Mr. Ed. Fraley.

You will observe that this action of the Secretary compels the officers of the Survey to give up all hope of the appointment of a Commission through his agency, and consigns them absolutely to the bondage of the new Regulations, since the offer to consider specific

cases of hardship arising under these regulations ignores the question of general hardship as stated in the Memorials, and is besides of no value practically in view of the fact that the Superintendent has placed himself on record against allowing any appeal to be made through him by an officer to the Secretary.

It is with a view of asking your advice as to the best course to be pursued at this juncture that I take the liberty of addressing you on this subject.

And I venture to ask further whether in your opinion an appeal from the signers of the Memorials to the President would not induce him to take action in the matter of appointing a Commission.

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

Boston, May 27, 1881.

President Rogers,

My dear Sir:

I hereby place in your hands my resignation of the professorship I now hold in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the resignation to take effect at the close of the present school-year.

In taking this step, permit me to assure you, that I shall always feel a deep interest in the success of an institution that has done so much for the cause of sound technical education. I trust that it will do still more — that it has in it the promise

of eventually offering a technical training inferior to none in either hemisphere. To you, its founder and most earnest promoter, this community owes a debt that it can best discharge by giving to this institution a support so generous and a permanent endowment so liberal, as to enable it to command the highest ability in its personnel, and the utmost completeness in all its appliances. How more than tenfold would such liberality be repaid!

Yours very truly,

Jno. B. Henck,

Hayward Professor of Civil and Topographical Engineering.

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.
May 28th '81

Dear Mrs. Rogers—

Your letter so kindly written in the hurry of your departure for Newport arrived a few days ago, and I am very glad to hear that you are well and strong after the fatigues of your journey. I am always amazed at the work done by Professor Rogers, for though seeming weak he has the energy and vigor of a lion, but I often wish he would give up his labors of presiding and managing, and rest on his well earned laurels. We who have come under his kind influence are too fond of him not to see with pain that he keeps so incessantly busy, and I hope the rest you now seek will make him strong and well to enjoy the honors he has won.

It seems now long ago that

I first knew & loved him in the early days of the Institute, but every year makes the tie stronger, and absent or present increases my regard as I see from the experience of manhood how his teaching has influenced me; — not merely the instruction of the class-room, but the broader more controlling power of man and friend.

I hope next week to run on to Boston for two or three weeks, but whether I shall have time to visit Newport I cannot tell. My letters will go to the United States Hotel as most convenient to the Plymouth station.

I enclose a few rude sketches of the Moquis villages, which I intended to send some time ago only waiting to hear where you were. They are of no value, I know, except to remind you that I have been there and seen those strange places, though only with the eyes of inexperience detecting little. I fear that would add to the knowledge of their history and origin.

Yours most sincerely

A. H. Russell

EDWARD ATKINSON,
131 DEVONSHIRE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

Boston, May 28, 1881.

Prof Rogers

My dear Sir:-

While I fully understand the relative position which our School of Mechanic Arts bears to our more important work, I yet look upon it and its results as one of our best instruments for advertising and showing what we can do.

The visible and tangible results are what appeal to every-day people in the most effective way.

I therefore suggest that arrangements be made whereby either Professor Whittaker, or some one thereto authorized, shall prepare a very complete set of the examples of carpentry, and metal work, well mounted, with a full description of the method of teaching, and of the position which this teaching bears in our regular course as well as in itself, to be set up in the Cotton Exhibition at Atlanta.

While it may be a subordinate branch to us, it will show a high standard to them; and

[5/08/1881]

there is no section, as you so well know, where right methods in the minor arts are so much needed.

If you approve, and will delegate this work to me, under right instructions from the committee or the government, I will pay the bills.

Yours sincerely,

Odion Atkinson

(dictated)

from Edw. Atkinson

Brookline
May 29, 1881

My dear Mr Rogers
thank you for your
note of the 19th.
It seemed proper that
before taking any steps
to enlarge its sphere of
action the Art school
should consult with you that
there might be harmony
of action with regard to
the ground to be covered by
the two schools.
The vote of the Institute
renders our course clear
I hope that whatsoever we
may do we may have your

cooperation, any steps we may take hereafter with regard to the school would be after consulting with you.

We shall look with great interest for your action with regard to the architectural department & it is of importance to any profession generally as to who will be appointed to the vacant chair.

We all regret the loss to this community.

Resolved by the trustees of the Institute, that the resignation of the Chair has had an important influence upon the practice here.

Resolved, that we will do all in our power to aid the Institute in its efforts to obtain a successor.

Resolved, that we invite an expression of opinion from the Institute on the subject of the Society of Architects.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Institute.

which takes place on Friday night.

Yours very truly

Lord Charles

To D. Sec. B. Loring
Nov. 30. 1881

Dear Sir

As I know that in your organization of the Bureau of Agriculture you will aim to become for it the head of the most important scientific experts whose labors cannot therefore be the objects, I hence no hesitate in suggesting to you the name of Prof C. V. Riley, formerly the entomologist of the Agric. Department, who would, I know, be glad to be reappointed to that post.

Of Prof. R, I need speak in learning & experience & his peculiar fitness for original work. I am sure you are already well aware

And hence it otherwise
the earnestness of testimony
of Amer: Naturalists
would,

I think leave
no room for doubt.

From all that I have
of Prof. Riley, from his own
specimen to judge of his studies &
his work I feel assured that
he is eminently well fitted to
take charge of the entomological
enquiries that are of such
importance ~~in the~~ in the
scientific working of
your dep.t

Hoping that you may feel
it expedient to avail yourself
of Prof. R's services & congratulate
you heartily ~~for your acceptance~~ on
the elevation of so distinguished
a man to the public service, I am &c

W. H. R.

Ann Arbor, Mich.
May 30, 1881.

Prof. J. D. Runkle,

Dear Sir:

I regret to hear, by your favor of the 27th. inst., that Prof. Henck is obliged by the state of his health to leave the Institute. I appreciate fully the high compliment paid me by this tender of the chair of civil engineering and I feel strongly drawn towards the place. While there are also some family reasons which urge me to the move, I cannot quite

persuade myself that it would be a prudent one financially.

The salary offered, while a little more than we get here now, is the same with what we formerly received at Ann Arbor, and may perhaps again receive. I have a nice house of my own, am very comfortable, and all my relations in college and town are pleasant. Then the cost of living in Boston and vicinity must be decidedly higher than it is here. I have also some engineering work, being at present chief engineer of a R.R. extension from A.A. to Pontiac, although this work is drawing to a close.

If, however, the governing board of the Institute can see their way to paying me $2800 per year, or can manage to give me a bonus of $1000 as an offset to the necessary expenses of removing and selling my house, I think I should, unless some unforeseen complication arises, be prepared to give a formal offer a favorable answer. I trust I shall not seem unnecessary and that I have not been too frank in my statements. With kindest regards to President Rogers, Prof. Hook and yourself, I am,

Yours truly,
Chas. E. Greene.

Washington.
May 31. 1881.

Dear Prof. Rogers

I am very sorry I can not accept your kind invitation to attend the graduating exercises of the Institute, on Friday next: but the terrible necessity of removing several hundreds of unfortunate men & women from the official roof which has given them a poor & precarious shelter for a few months, will keep

me in Washington see the week,

Pray make my regards

to Mrs Rogers. Believe me

ever faithfully yours

F. A. Walker

131

233 Clarendon Street.
Boston.

May 31. 1881

My dear Sir –

I should be very glad indeed to try to do what you ask of me, if it were possible. No task could be pleasanter & I thank you very much indeed for your invitation, – but I am very sorry that I have an Engagement for next Friday

which I cannot escape & which makes it impossible for me to come. I am sincerely sorry.

Faithfully Yours

Phillips Brooks

Rev. Wm B. Rogers

Dear Prof Loan

Your letter of resig^n has been ~~read~~ communicated to the Corp at their meeting yesterday afternoon & it was voted that we accept your resig^n. The Corp. desire to express their great regret that the Dart ~~to lose~~ should lose your services in the Dep^t of Instruct. What you have so zealously & ably contributed since the foundation of the School I further to express your, their high personal esteem & heartfelt interest in your welfare

Allow me to add to my own
humble an expression of my most cordial
regard inspired by many years of
pleasant intercourse, and the earnest
wish that in your new & congenial action
you may have all the success &
happiness due to the perspicuous
& scholarly accomplishments which
you bring to the work.

W. B. R.

May. 1881

Circular of the Members of Advisory Com. on Transit of Venus for Dec. 1882.

The Commission appointed by Congress some years since to make arrangements for the observation by American astronomers of the Transit of Venus of 1874, & matters relating thereto, — which, as I understand it, still in force, — has become, as American astronomers, to take measures as early as practicable to prepare for the coming Transit in Dec. 1882.

The Commission brought its President Admiral John Rodgers, Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, has designated me as Prof. of the Nat. Acad. of Sciences and as a member of the Commission, to nominate five members of the Nat. Acad. form an Advisory Committee to cooperate with the Commission

in determining the best methods of observing the approaching Transit — as well as the stations to be occupied & the instruments to be used.

The joint Commission thus formed will it is expected be at once authorized by the Secy of the Navy to act in the premises & to continue in force until the next meeting of Congress, when the Commission may be confirmed or modified by that body.

Permit me to add that I shall be happy to co-operate with you in such measures as may seem to me advisable for the ~~in anticipation of~~ systematic ~~by Memorial Appropriation of~~ ~~Observation of the Transit~~ ~~the Coming Transit of Venus~~.

For myself if you wish it I may give an occasional at your early convenience.

May. 1881. W B R.

[May 1881]

The number of students is 335 — of whom 35 are young women including 14 in the scientific departments & 21 in the Lowell School of Practical Design.

The number of graduates in the scientific departments since the foundation of the School in 1865 has been 250. Of these 16 have since died, 7 have not reported themselves & of the remaining 227, 4 are unemployed, 2 of them from ill health. Of the 223 that are employed, 203 or ninety per cent are established as Professors or Teachers, & as Civil, Mechanical & Mining Engineers, Chemists Metallurgists & Architects &c in 30 of the United States, & in Canada, Mexico, So: America, Hawaii & Japan, the remaining ten per cent consisting of Physicians Lawyers & Men of Business.

Spring of 1881.