117 Papers, July 1881

Dear Prof. Runkle

Since showing you some weeks ago an arrangement for the Mathematical Dept hastily sketched by me & submitted to the Committee I have shown it also to Prof. Osborne & having had further communication with members of the committee I am satisfied that no arrangement can be made retaining his full Prof. wh does not involve a yielding of some preferences on the part of each. that by Prof. Osborne

It is our earnest wish to retain the services of both without touching the sensibility of either. I therefore enclose for yr consideration a somewhat different scheme of adjustment from the former, which I received after my communication with the other

gentleman. You will see that it allots the Integral Calc: to you it leaves the Diff: in charge of Prof Osborne — that it gives Plain & Spher: Trig: & Spher: Astron: to you ~~which~~ leaving the Algebra & Geometry to him.

I am sending a copy of this scheme also to Prof Osborne & I do earnestly hope dear Prof that you will both agree with me in seeing the wisdom of acceding to this or some closely equivalent arrangement — with kindest regards

Yrs faithfully

WBR

July 1 1881.

July 1. 1881

Dear Prof. Osborne

Mr. D. S. Phelbrick called last Wed. to late me of his interview with you, & I have also heard from Mr. Carson.

I am satisfied that no arrangement of the Math. dep.t will be made by the Committee, which has full Power, that does not involve a yielding of some preferences on your part and also on that of Prof. Ricketts.

It is our earnest wish to retain the services of both teachers touching the sensibilities of either.

I therefore enclose for your consideration a somewhat diff. scheme of studies from that formerly ~~shown~~ to you, which occurred to me soon after my interview with you, & which has the approval of Mr. Phelbrick.

You will see that it leaves the Diff. Calculus in your charge & allots the Integral to Prof. Ricketts & that it gives the term of the 1st. year to you & the other to him.

It might be thought objectionable

Mr Thus to divide the work on the Calculus between two Profs, but this has already been done between you & Prof. Lanza, and I believe that no arrangement depending Prof. Rankle of the Share that subject would be considered just or expedient.

I am sending a copy of this Scheme also to Prof. Rankle and I do earnestly hope that you will both ~~[illegible]~~ agree with me in ~~securing the [illegible]~~ according to this or some closely equivalent arrangement.

With kind regards
Yours faithfully
W. B. P.

In sending it the part of Weisbach Professione degnità to

Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C., July 1st 1881.

My Dear Sir:

Responses affirmative to the loan of Watson's property have been received from Messrs Coffin, Hall, Meigs and Hilgard. Messrs Barnard and Marsh are abroad. The remaining members of the council

I believe you have with you, except Professor Baird who has not been heard from.

Some of the members assent on the proviso that the property can be reclaimed by the Academy when it pleases. I suppose the very fact of calling it a loan implies a loan during the pleasure of the lender, but if you think it desirable you can have the permit I made copied with the qualification "during the pleasure of the Academy."

The words "supposed to have been bequeathed" were used because I believe the Academy has not yet received any official information that the bequest has been awarded to it. Indeed, except the prop-

erty specifically bequeathed namely the books and papers it only comes in as a residuary legatee after certain other claims are satisfied.

With kind regards to Mrs Rogers and best wishes for your own good health,

I remain Yours very truly

Simon Newcomb

Presdt. W. B. Rogers
Newport, R. I.

Calumet Mich.
July 2 1881

My dear Charles.

I suppose you have heard the good news that Charley Greene is appointed to the Chair of Civil Engineering in the Institute in place of Prof Henck who has resigned. Our alumni seem to be getting hold more and more. I think the appointment is a good one and will help modernize the department which from our time down has been an acknowledged need.

I have no doubt that Charles will straighten out many matters which have been waiting for him.

How have you been all this time I haven't heard a word from you for ever so long.

I am up here rusticating for two months.

Faithfully Yrs
Robert H. Richards

To Prof Charles H Smith
St Louis
Mo

[July 1881]

To Prof Cooper.

As Prof. Greene has disappointed us by withdrawing his acceptance of the Chair of Civil Engineering in the Institute, we must again look around for a Prof. in that Department.

Desiring that some one may be found among our graduates capable of filling the place, I write to ask that you will kindly give me the names of any of those whose qualifications might

seem to you to deserve a more particular inquiry. Please also let me know your opinion, from personal acquaintance, or other sources, of Prof^r Smith of the class of '68 now holding the chair of Civil Engineering in the St Louis Univ: & also of Messrs Pike, C. F. Allen & Swain all of whose names have been mentioned to me by Prof^r Lanza.

1881

Calumet Hotel
Calumet Mich.
July 2.

My dear Professor Rogers.

On my return from Pennsylvania I had a few moments talk with you about the mineralogy for the coming year. In it I did not state the position I hold with reference to that subject as fully as I should have done.

I have never considered that mineralogy was to remain with me permanently since the time the Mining Laboratory was opened I have said nothing about it because I did not think the Institute was in financial condition to make any change. Two years ago I allowed myself to assume the Secretary's office in addition

my time was already frittered away by too great a variety of work and I allowed this addition to be made for the same reason that I mentioned before. I have succeeded in getting through the two years without much comment in regard to my being overworked or in regard to my being inefficient in it. How has this been accomplished? If it had not been for the annual help given to me by my wife I would have given up Mineralogy seven years ago, it would have been an impossibility for me to attend to it with all my other work. This is not all I have been obliged to call on the time of two young ladies who have been staying with me to help me through the periods of rush and work.

Now if the Institute is still unable to relieve me and give me as my teaching work, only the

[7/2/1881]

Mining lectures and the laboratory work then I will consider the matter over again to see what I can do; I have been on tip toe so long however with my great variety of demand that I fear if I do not soon get my feet on terra firma that I shall never be able to do things either thoroughly or satisfactorily. I do think that the work that I can do between morning and night from October to May ought to be sufficient to earn my salary and I do not think that I am doing justice to the school or to my family when I allow myself to undertake so much that I am obliged to call in friends and relatives to perform it. And I hope that you will find that the Institute is able to afford the change, what I ask is that Mineralogy may be taken from

me permanently whether I am Secretary or not.

If the Faculty wish it I am ready to remain secretary during the coming year. I think it would probably be an advantage not to have any change made during President Walker's first year.

I am sorry to add one more burden to your load and I certainly would not do it if I did not feel that this was a real wrong that needs to be righted.

We are pleasantly situated here and expect to have a nice chance to work for two months

Please give our love to Mrs Rogers

Very sincerely Yrs

Robert H. Richards

Ann Arbor, Mich.
July 2, 1881.

Prest. Wm. B. Rogers,
Mass. Inst. of Technology,

Dear Sir:

When I wrote the last letter to Prof. Runkle, to which you refer in your favor of the 16th. ult., I intended the declination to be final, but I was persuaded by your subsequent letter to signify my willingness to accept the appointment at Boston. I regret to be obliged to say, however, that, when it came to the task of severing my connections here, I have proved unequal to it. The Regents and the members of the faculties and the students have pressed me very strongly to remain; they have

promised me an increase of salary; and, – a more potent influence than all the others, – my wife, who, against her inclination, at first wished me to do as I thought best and consented to the removal, now, when the time is at hand for breaking up our home, is made very unhappy by the idea, and has a very strong desire to continue at Ann Arbor. She has always been opposed to a residence in Boston and vicinity and has become extremely attached to this place.

For this latter reason, therefore, I am obliged to ask you to release me from the assent which I gave to your proposal and to permit me to decline the formal tender of the chair of engineering which I recently received from your secretary.

The way in which the matter has shaped itself has given me much distress, and I regret very deeply to feel obliged at the last moment to go counter to the kindly expressed wishes of yourself and the Government of the Institute; but I hope and feel that you will find some one for the vacant chair who will do all, that the warm friends of the Institute desire, to increase the high repute of the school.

With much esteem, I am
Your obt. servant,
Chas. E. Greene.

X

Staunton Va

My dear Mr Rogers July 4th 1881

Your letter of 29th of June, was received, as I was about leaving the University, on Friday last. We had an interesting, & I hope a profitable session, of the Visitors, & all the exercises of the commencement, were of the most pleasing character. Among the most gratifying features of the occasion, was an admirable oration, before the literary societies, by Chief Justice Bradley of R. I.

I took the liberty of reading your letter, in regard to Prof: Fontaine, to the Board of Visitors, & of having it spread, at large, on our Journal.

I also propose to make it a part of my annual Report, to the Legislature, which meets in December.

My reason for wishing to bring it before the public, at an earlier day, is the fact, that Prof Fontaine is now engaged in making explorations of the country between Waynesboro' & along the line of the extension of the Shenandoah Valley R.R. now in process of construction, & the mouth of North River, in Rockbridge – This country abounds in iron-ores, manganese – kaolin, timber, ochre, & a pure white sand, which looks like granulated white sugar – Parties who propose to invest, are looking, with anxiety, to Prof: Fontaines Report, & as I know that your letter would strengthen public confidence in his opinions, I am anxious to get it before the public, at an early day, so that those who read his report, may know your estimate of his capacity & fidelity –

According to your request, I now enclose your letter, for such revision, as you may deem proper – though I think you will find, that none is necessary –

The community was stunned on Saturday, by the announcement of the atrocious assault on the President, which we fear may prove fatal – The most profound indignation prevails against the assassin, & the warmest sympathy for the President & his family, among people of every grade of society, & of every shade of political opinion – Earnest prayers for his recovery, were fervently offered in our churches yesterday, & the whole public is anxiously awaiting fresh news –

Very truly your friend
& obt: servant
Alex: H. H. Stuart

X

Boston July 4th 1881

Dear President Rogers

You may be interested to know that I have succeeded in begging the amount needed to buy the testing machine (the $275 one) for the Institute, and have just written to Mr Riehle to send it.

It will exert a pull of 50000 pounds and will, I think, enable me to familiarize the students with the strength of materials by actual test; which seems to me to be of very great importance.

I have also completed the experiments on the strength of wooden columns for Mr Atkinson at the Watertown arsenal, and find some

very interesting and important new developments in that regard.

I came across the enclosed getting in the Transcript and, not liking the looks of it, I enclose it, in order that you may know that it was there, and do whatever is best in regard to it, or do nothing if that is the best.

Hoping you are all well, and with kindest regards for Mrs Rogers I am

Yours faithfully
Gaetano Lanza

Newport July 4. 1881

Dear Prof. Hersek.

I have this moment rec'd a letter from Prof. Greene, asking to be released from his acceptance of the Professorship of Civ. Eng. which he communicated to me some time since, & which I then ~~had~~ considered as ~~happily~~ closing ~~given~~ his appointment in the Navy, & his Services. It appears that when it came to point of his leaving his present position, the Trustees, ~~Prof. & Prudential Committee~~ ~~with Mr. Greene~~ his presence on account of his Salary & ~~they~~ with the Faculty and ~~also~~ his friends, and by his wife who is strongly attached to Ann Arbor

~~wanted to resign; how to resign,~~
~~& that their has felt it~~
prevailed upon him to resign.
In view of the circumstances I
feel that he has acted honestly
and I cannot blame, though
greatly disappointed by his change
of purpose.

I am at a loss where
to look for a fit successor
~~in~~ your Chair – Can you
suggest any other ~~of your~~ fore-
~~making~~ other persons
~~man the~~ ~~else~~ that
~~Inspector~~ would be qualified
for this important work, &
that ~~would~~ ~~probably~~ may be available?

Please write to me ~~at your~~
as soon as convenient – &
believe me yours faithfully

W. B. R.

Mr. Swain would seem to have many qualifications, but it was to my I think his practical experience & skill I suppose ~~he~~ could ~~not~~ get leave ~~to be~~ ~~would him~~ should ~~be~~ ~~with~~ it be wished.

Peabody, July 4, 1881

Dear Prof. Rogers,

Your letter enclosing a new division of subjects in the mathematical department reached me on Saturday.

This differs materially from the first plan in giving me the Differential Calculus, whereas the former deprived me of all three, Analytic Geometry, Differential Calculus, and Integral Calculus. While it is a keen disappointment to be obliged to exchange any of these branches for instruction in the First Year, I will acquiesce in this arrangement.

If President Runkle's course toward me had been straightforward and candid, I should have had no cause for disaffection; but I am willing to believe that the present difficulty is inherited from a previous administration, and that your solution is the best attainable.

Most sincerely yours.

Geo. R. Osborne

Prof. W. B. Rogers.

Thanks for enclosed.
This seems to open the way
to a solution which I hope
may be satisfactory.

E. S. P.

PARK DEPARTMENT.

NEW ENGLAND LIFE INS. BUILDING,
POST OFFICE SQUARE,
BOSTON.

6th July. 1881.

Prof. Wm. B Rogers
Prest. Mass. Institute of Technology.

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to instructions of the City Council, this Board wishes to know upon what terms the Institute of Technology will sell to the City of Boston the vacant lot of land at the junction of Huntington Avenue and Boylston Street. Said land, in connection with the adjacent lots bounded by Huntington Avenue Dartmouth Street and Boylston Street, to be devoted to Public Park uses.

Respectfully,

C. H. Dalton
Chmn. B. Park Comrs.

X

Boston. July 6. 1881.

Dear President Rogers.

There is no reason why Corporation of Com: on School should be called together because of Prof Greene's declination. Our vote was to authorize you to invite him. Confirmation can only be accomplished according to our By Laws at a Stated meeting. I have left Prof: Greene's note at Shaumut Bank not being fortunate enough in two visits to find Mr Cummings in.

Why not write F. A. Walker, and ask him for suggestions as to filling the vacancies?

Prof: Otis tells me that the reception of Walker at Yale Commencement was far heartier than that given to any other man.

Sincerely yours L. R. T.

Brookline July 9th 1871.

Dear Prest Rogers,

During the latter part of July last, a letter reached me at Cannstatt, Germany, from Mr Ross, saying that a few of my friends had sent me a sum of money, to aid me in making a visit to Russia. At the same time a Draft from Messrs. Kidder and Peabody came to hand. These letters had been sent in Feby and had remained all this time in the London office of Baring Bros.

But it was then too late

to go to Russia, and I returned the Draft to Messrs. Kidder & Peabody, and also wrote to Mr. Ross asking him to return the money and thank the ~~kind~~ friends who had so kindly remembered me.

On my return to America, I was told by Mr. Ross, that the money was still in the hands of Messrs. Kidder & Peabody and it was the wish of the donors that I should take it. I hesitated for some time, but have finally decided with their consent, to hold it in trust for a daughter born at 12.45 P.M., March 4th 1881 — our inauguration baby, — Eleanor Gordon Runkle. I have today received a note from Mr. Ross, giving the names of all the donors and the sums contributed, in all $600.; and I shall leave a statement from which she will some day learn that she is indebted to the kindness of her father's friends for this timely aid and thoughtful care.

With sincere thanks from Mrs. Runkle and myself believe me,

Ever truly yours,

J. D. Runkle

10

Norfolk House, Roxbury,
July 11, 1881.

My dear Professor Royce, —

Your note is just received and I hasten to reply. I suppose you wish a frank statement of my opinion, but I do not feel competent to judge of the professional ability of the various persons mentioned.

I have always liked Smith personally, and my relations with him have been especially pleasant. As to his professional standing I know little. He has written a number of papers that I have seen, and has I think kept up a certain amount of practical work. I think that

he is highly regarded in St. Louis. Seven years ago when I was so strongly urged to go there myself, Dr. Eliot told me that he considered Smith a very valuable man and that they should be sorry if he were to leave them. He seems to me to be the strongest man next to Greene that has been mentioned, and the fact that he has had so large an experience in teaching is certainly in his favor. The only thing against him that I know is of minor importance. That is, a certain manner, which is better liked at the West that at the East, a rather jovial, "hale-fellow, well-met" kind of a way. I think that he would be very generally liked, however, but am very doubtful if he would come to us.

Pike I am but slightly acquainted with. When he was in Maine I was told by some of our graduates, — I have forgotten who — that he stood next in authority and advisor to the President of the State College. Beyond this I know nothing.

C. F. Allen I am very well acquainted with from his long service on the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association. Personally he is a thorough gentleman, courteous, conciliatory, but clear in his opinions and able to defend them, — moreover as I was glad to find in some of our Alumni in discussions quite conservative. He has had no experience in teaching, but would I should think make a good teacher. He has also had an experience of nine years in the field.

Swain was a very bright scholar when at the Institute

and has, of course, the advantage of an advanced course of study abroad. I have not seen much of him; not enough to have any opinion as to his manliness or aptitude in teaching. His disadvantage seems to be youth and inexperience, both of which time would remedy.

I wish that I knew more about Pike and Swain, but my less praise of them arises not from anything that I know which is unfavorable, but simply from want of knowledge.

We have one other graduate F. & L. Beale who is at Ames, Iowa, in the State Agricultural College. He is a hard-working, heavy kind of man. I should question if he was quite the equal of the others.

There are two other names that have occurred to

[7/11/1881]

me, regarding which an inquiry might be worth while. I do not know that either of these men would be suitable, but both are well-known in Boston. One is Mr. Fred. Brooks, one of my classmates, who graduated at Harvard and then studied two years at the Institute, the other is Mr. Eliot Clarke, a son of Jas. Freeman Clarke who has been connected with the Sewer Department.

You will be glad to hear, to pass from Institute to personal matters, that we have a little boy in our family who is now over three weeks old. Mrs. Cross is and has been as well as could be wished, and we are enjoying the summer in a quiet way. I hope that we shall be able to spend September in the mountains.

I am occupying myself chiefly in studying up certain points in electricity with reference to some advances in my lectures.

Please give our regards to Mrs Rogers, and believe me as ever

Yours very sincerely,
Chas. R. Bird Jr.

Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C., July 11th 1881.

Dear Professor Rogers:

The official consent to the loan of Watson's books, etc., to the University of Wisconsin has been received, and I have forwarded it to the University.

Most certainly you must have a copy on the Report of the Tran-

sit of Venus. But there seems to have been some blunder in connection with the printing which I do not yet understand. Copies were sent to the Senate Document Room months ago but what has been done or will be done with them I do not know. I believe they are at the disposal of individual senators. Only 250 copies were printed for distribution at the Observatory and they have lain at the observatory sometime pending the question to whom so small a number should be sent. The distribution being under the Observatory I have taken no particular part in it

though I may send
them a suggestive
list of persons and
institutions to re-
ceive the copies.
The delay is an il-
lustration of the
general inefficiency
which pervades
administrative opera-
tions when nobody
in particular is
responsible for their
prompt execution

[7/11/1881]

Mr Newcomb is just now out of town and I hope for the summer.

With kind regards to Mr Rogers and best wishes for yourself, I remain

Very truly yours

Simon Newcomb

President W. B. Rogers

Newport

R. I.