19 Papers, August 1881

[1881]

9 W. 45th St.

New York, Aug. 15.

Prof. Wm B. Rogers.

Newport, R. I.

Dear Sir,

I am today in receipt of the enclosed letter, without signature, but as it comes from Newport it seems possible that it may be from you, or that if that is not the case you will know who the author is. I therefore take the liberty of sending my reply to you, and hope that if you are not the author you will excuse my intrusion, and hand this to the proper person, if you know who he is.

It has been my desire – and it still is – to teach Civil Engineering; and if satisfactory arrangement could be made, it would please me very much if I should be appointed to a position in the Institute. But the first thing is to let you know just what the present condition of the work I am now engaged upon is, and to request you to have the kindness to give me some further information regarding salary, etc. I am at present engaged as Deputy Special Agent of the Census, to report on the water power of the Atlantic slope south of the Hudson. If I were to work uninterruptedly at my report I could not finish it before the end of October. But I think that I could

work on my report while engaged in teaching, provided I finish a certain portion within a month or so from this date, in time to be printed and presented to Congress when it meets. But there is another point. According to the plans of Prof. Trowbridge, as he has represented them to me, he desires me to take charge of the preparation of a census report on bridges, which will necessitate my visiting all the large bridge-building establishments and making a thorough study of their designs and their methods of construction. I am very desirous of attempting this work, and I think that it would be the very best thing to prepare me to teach the subject of bridges with special regard to American methods. In fact, it has always been my intention, should I succeed in ever getting a position to teach, to devote my vacations to just such a trip and to just such studies, in order to be able to present to students the best American methods and the views of American engineers on the subject.

Now if I should be honored by being appointed to a position in the Institute, it might be possible for me in some way to carry on this work. You will be able to say whether it would be necessary for me to spend all my time at Boston, or whether I could at intervals take a trip to some bridge works. And if this could not be done, I might be able to start out at once on my trips, and to finish some or the greater part of my travelling before the term commences. As I said before, I am very anxious, if possible, to do this work on bridges, because it will afford just the opportunity I need to become thoroughly familiar with American methods and with American engineers — more familiar than it is possible to become in any other way. It would amount, I think, to a practical experience in bridge building of several years.

Finally, as I remarked at first, I should like to know what my salary would be, and any other details regarding my work, etc.

If you desire to see my testimonials from my Professors in Berlin, I will have them forwarded to you, and I earnestly desire that some satisfactory arrangement can be made by which I may become a candidate for a position in the Institute without being obliged to relinquish say the preparation of the report on bridges. On the water power I will of course comply, but there is no need of my doing it at once, and I have no doubt that I could work it up while teaching.

Hoping that you will have the kindness to favor me with a reply, I am, very respectfully yours.

Geo. F. Swain.

P.S. I feel greatly indebted to you for

your kindness in affording me an opportunity to become a candidate for the position you refer to. I have always desired to teach, and as far as pleasant associations are concerned no place would suit me better than one at my alma Mater. My Professor in Berlin, under whom I studied principally, - Prof. Winkler, - in a letter received a short time ago, recommended me to do some practical work before teaching, and it is for this reason that I am so anxious to be able to do this work in Boston and at the same time of becoming a candidate for a position at the Institute. I hope that I may do both, and as soon as I hear from you I will write to Prof. Trowbridge, who has charge of our Course work, and see what arrangement can be made.

As for my qualifications, I am sure that all of my old Professors at the Institute will say a good word for me.

Very respectfully yours,

G. F. Swain

9 W. 45th St.
New York, Aug. 18.
[1881]

Prof. Wm B. Rogers.
Newport, R. I.

Dear Sir,

Since replying this morning to your letter (- presumably yours, at least -), which I did as soon as it was received, I have thought over the matter you speak of, and then are a few more remarks which I wish to make. I am quite sure that my present work will not interfere at all with that of instruction, being sure that I can finish all that is desired of me by the middle of next month, and completing the remainder at my leisure. The only question is regarding the bridge work. - I desire, however, to be put down for the present as a candidate for the position, but until I am informed what the salary will be, I can of course not promise to remain a candidate under all circumstances. Now as regards the bridge work, I should be willing to give that up entirely if it should interfere with my

work of instruction. But one point of view has presented itself to me, which I should like to venture to call to your attention. If I should be considered fitted in all respects for the position at the Institute, I think that the preparation of that report would not only benefit me but also the school. If I should succeed in producing a good report, attention would be called to the source from which it emanated, and as it would deal principally with practical details, it might find favor among practical engineers, and as the only official report on American bridges it would certainly attract attention in Europe, for my teacher Prof. Weisbach would certainly take a great interest in it, as he has already written me. I am far from placing too high an estimate on my own abilities, but the thought simply occurred to me that a good report on bridges would call attention to the school from which it emanated, — which if I could not produce a good report, I should not consider myself worthy of a position in my Alma Mater. A good deal of the Census work is being done by professors and teachers. The chief of my department is Prof. Trowbridge — of Columbia College by —; and one of the special agents is an instructor in the college. I have therefore thought that I might be able to do the bridge work too, if I were chosen to a position at the Institute. But however that might be, whatever position I should occupy, I should discharge my duties conscientiously, and as I have not yet been definitely charged with or accepted the work on bridges, there is now nothing to hinder my becoming a candidate. The appropriation for the Census having run out, I am now a volunteer, and can finish my work as I wish — and provided that a certain amount is ready by the time Congress meets I understand that Prof. Trowbridge is in no hurry. — Please be so kind, then, as to put me down as a candidate, but until I know what my salary

would ~~should~~ be were I elected, I should like to reserve the right to withdraw. If the salary were very low, I might even consider it more advantageous to devote myself to the bridge work exclusively, and run the risk of getting something to do after that ~~was~~ is finished.

Permit me to say one word more regarding my qualifications for a position at the Institute. I have testimonials from Profs. Winkler and Goering, and from the school I attended in Berlin. Although I have not requested permission to do so, I will refer to these gentlemen, and also to Prof. Hagen, and I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever they may say of me. They are all at Berlin – E. Winkler, A. Goering, L. Hagen. In the Institute, Profs. Lange and Stinck knew more of me than any others, but Prof. Mills gave me permission to refer to him, and I have heard of Prof. Davison's saying one something good of me. If I should be chosen to the position, I should devote myself conscientiously to the work, and good will at any rate should not be lacking.

I hope I have not tired you with these two letters, and I hope you will

[8/15/1881]

have the kindness to favor me with a reply ere long, informing me regarding the salary and the work I should have to do. I am very much obliged to you for having given me an opportunity to try for the position.

Very respectfully yours.

Geo. F. Swain.

Meeting of Com. on School - Aug. 17. 1881.

A. Chair of Architecture.

(1.) Read my letter to Van Brunt - & the letter of Com. of Soc. of Architects - suggesting Mr. W. P. P. Longfellow and Prof. M. Clark as suitable Candidates -

(2) My interview with Mr. Longfellow as stated in my memorandum, taken soon after - which read - with the impression made upon me - Also read his letter rec'd a few days after -

(3) - Refer to Mr. T. M. Clark. What Prof. Ware said to me of both gentlemen - The practical tendency of Mr. C as shown in his writings, in the Architect -

(4) Enquire what the other members of the Com. have learned in regard to them - Mr. Lowell's letter favoring Mr. L: Mr. Atkinson's favoring Clark.

5 - Can we place this Depart. on a diff. footing from the Others, as regards Compensation? Objections to making the Compensation depend in part on No. of Students. Experience at Univ. of Va. -

6 - Can we now offer the Chair to one of these gentlemen.

B – Chair of Civil & Tech. Engineering

(7) – Mention or read – Correspondence with Prof. Eddy – who virtually declines being a candidate, this very strong recommendation of Prof Church of Cornell –

(8) Correspondence with Prof C. A. Smith of the Univ. of Ohio. Am looking for a letter from him – Read the Opinions of Profs. Long & Prof. & Richards – State the unfavorable opinions of Henck & Rankin,

(9). Correspondence with Prof. Church. Prof. Long's very high Commendation,

(10) – Letter to Mr. C. Frank Allen. His reply by Telegram – "Date see be in the week from 13th" Opinions of Lazen – Richards, & Prof – do

11. Letter to Mr. Swain – what Assistant.

(12). Prof. Richards writes that his Lect. Rich will soon leave – & that he will have little more need of relief from the Mineralogy –

13, Mentioning Conversation with Niles – who expected to graduate next year & intended then to go to Europe – this Sect. Course – & thereby Salary increased day to 1500 dolls.

(14) Prof. Pike – Letter of Mr. Howland concerning him – Is not specially commended by Ordway &c –

(15) Have action taken by Corpn:
(first) to relieve Prof. Nichols from duty at the Institute for the first term of the Session – Continuing his Salary as at present
(Second) to appoint as Assistant to take Charge of the Lectures to the 1st. Year Class
(Third) to appoint Stockwell, assistant in Charge of the Laboratory & Instruction –

16 – Consider Prof Richards Application to be relieved of the Chair – Mineralogy – & to Grant this Subject to Prof. Crosby with some increase of his Salary –

17 – Prof. Niles –

9 W. 45th St.
New York, N.Y.
Aug. 19

Prof. Wm B. Rogers.

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of yesterday.

I should like to teach, and I am sure that I could fill the position of assistant at the Institute to your satisfaction. My present position, however, is financially more advantageous than one at the Institute would be if the salary is $800; and I am sure that I could do better in practical work - as far as salary goes. I have just succeeded in obtaining for a German friend of mine who has just come from Berlin a position on a railroad at $100 a month and his expenses, and I could certainly do as well if not better myself. However, as I should like very much to teach, I shall await more definite information from you before coming to any

decision.

I have written to my Uncle in Providence, requesting him to send you some documents which may interest you, viz. my recommendations from Prof. Winkler and Gerling in Berlin, and from Prof. Huck and Lange in Boston. Although I have no testimonial from Prof Hagen in Berlin, I should be willing to risk referring to him. I further requested my Uncle to send you copies of two short articles which I wrote for an engineering magazine last year. One of them was honored by being referred to at length in an English paper - not altogether unfavorably, but not quite correctly regarding some points. I should not venture to bring these to your attention were it not under these circumstances, - and it is not from any exaggerated idea of their value that I do so, but only that you may be able to judge fairly of my qualifications as an instructor.

Thanking you most sincerely for your interest, I am

Very respectfully yours,

George F. Swain.

P.S. When you have finished with my recommendations, I should be very much obliged if you would return them to me at this place, as I may have occasion to use them here. They are very valuable to me.

Very respectfully

G. F. Swain

from Geo. F. Shaw Aug. 19.

Prof Rogers —

Dear Sir:

After further consideration I have concluded that I could not undertake the professorship of Architecture at the M. I. T. this winter, and write to save you further delay

I trust the authorities will have no difficulty in finding such a person as they desire for the place, and thank you for the interest you have kindly shown me in discussing

the matter, — an interest of which, unfortunately, I dared not hope to have the benefit if I was to have the appointment.

I beg to send my compliments to Mrs. Rogers, and regret that I am prevented from seeing you in Norfolk.

Very truly yours
W. G. T. Langhorne

Hotel Brunswick
Aug. 19th 1887.

From Mr. W. P. P. Longfellow

Aug. 19.

Declining

To Prof. Vose

Aug. 20. 1881.

Wrote to Prof. George Vose
of Bowdoin Coll. Me.
in the same form as to Prof.
Chandler adding the following
"In writing this I wish
to be understood as having no
authority to make any offer
of the Chair"

Office of Edwd. S. Philbrick, Civil Engineer,
12 West Street,

Boston Aug 22 1881

Prof. Wm B. Rogers.

My dear Sir

I have a letter from Prof. Chas. A. Smith at St. Louis, saying you had been corresponding with him about the vacant chair at the institute. & saying he should take the place if "I will turn over to him what work I do not care to do". & "if a delay from his present engagements which may last till Christmas be not too great an obstacle".

I am ready to turn over to him any work I dont care to do. but cant ~~promise~~ hold that out as much of an inducement. for I have not had so much work offered to me lately as to overburden my own abilities or exceed my disposition to do it.

The proposed delay may prove an "obstacle". I shd think. Very truly

Edwd S. Philbrick

Providence R. I.

August 20th 1881.

Dear Sir.

My nephew, Mr George F. Swain, now in New York City, requests me to send you the enclosed testimonials & other papers referring to his studies in Berlin. He also requests me to send you copies of articles contributed to "Van Nostrand's Engineering Magazine" - Being unable to find the reprints of these articles, I send two magazines containing two of his articles.

Will you please return all the enclosed to me after you shall have sufficiently examined them?

over.

I have the honor, my dear Sir, to be very truly yours.

Dr C. W. Fillmore
150 Point St.

To
Prof. Wm B. Rogers
Pres. Mass. Inst. of Technology.

Newport Aug 21 1881

Prest M C Fernald
State College
Orono, Maine

Dear Sir

Mr. W. A. Pike a former Prep in your institution is mentioned with others as a candidate for the vacant chair of Civ. Engineering in the M I T & has referred to you for testimonials of his qualifications for teaching in that Department

Any information which you may think proper to communicate touching his abilities & attainments, his tact as a teacher, & his personal temperament & character will be very acceptable to us & will be gratefully rec'd by

Your faithful
W B Rogers Pres M I T

Newport Aug. 22. 1881

Dear Mr. Phillips

I send for your inspection a packet of "Testimonials, &c." rec'd this morning from the people of Mr. Swan, to be returned

No. 17. 4-5-81—1000.

SONORA RAILWAY COMPANY (Limited.)

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

W. R. MORLEY,
Chief Engineer.

Cananea Nov
~~Hermosillo, Sonora,~~ Mexico, Aug 21 1881

Prof Wm B Rogers
Newport -
R I

Dr Sir

At the request of a friend of C F Allen I write you to say that I have known Mr Allen personally & professionally for some three years, part of which time he was in charge of office work in my office on the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe RR & later after I had left that road he was in charge of the draughting dept of the Chief Engineers office of same road with occasion in both cases to do more or less outside work. In all cases I believe he gave entire satisfaction. It was my wish to take Mr Allen with me to Mexico but the Chief Engineer of the A T & S F

which which as a rule giving me
satisfaction by men from his record
made a special request that I
should have Lieu Mr Allen.
I consider Mr Allen as a very competent
engineer as well as a perfect gentleman
in every respect & am pleased that
my happening to be in the U S now
gives me an opportunity to testify
in his favor.

Very Yours
W R Morley
Chief
Sonora Ry

Aug. 21. 1881

In reply to Prof Newcomb's letter, I refer to the unexpected death of Prof. Peirce of Coast Survey, & a lot of our Stay -

~~It is~~ "It is I suppose too soon to consider the question of his successor. But when the question does come up, I think that Scientific Geodesy & astronomy will be kept prominently in view" -

Brookline, Aug 22 81

Dear Prest Rogers—

I am afraid that I can not be of much aid to you so far as Prof. Voze is concerned— His book is about all I have to judge of him, & others can use this to better advantage— The manuscript of the 1st Edition came into my hands, & while it did not indicate a want of practical knowledge of sail-rigging, it was slovenly to such a degree, that I should feel sure that ~~that~~ the same quality introduced into the class room would not not be conducive to method & clear

ness. Again, my impression is that he is not as well up in the higher Math & Mech. as he should be to teach the subjects of his course from the best points of view — I do not think it sufficient that a teacher should be able to apply engineering rules. I should certainly prefer Allen or Pike — but you may have evidence that far outweighs my impressions —

From what I know of Longfellow I am inclined to think him the best man we are likely to find. He will carry on the dept. much in the same spirit & from the same direction as Prof Ware has done, which to my mind is desirable —

It is much easier to ~~strengthen~~ strengthen the engineering, or building side, than the art or designing side — A department strong in construction but weak in design would not not do much towards elevating the standard of the profession, which is now doing so much to make Boston the leading city in America in the matter of architectural taste — while we are by no means deficient in building skill. It is true that this skill is not always found among the

Architects, but even with them there is a steady gain. I think we shall do well to get Longfellow, considering how limited our choice is —

You may have noticed that Columbia Coll is advertising its Arch. Dept. quite conspicuously in Boston — We may at first lose a few of our old pupils, but I hope not many —

Mrs R is better than she has been for any time during the past year, so we hope that she will soon be quite well — Nichols is gaining I hear

Mrs R joins me in kindest regards to both Mrs Rogers & yourself —

Sincerely yours
J. D. Runkle —

T. M. CLARK,
ARCHITECT,
178 DEVONSHIRE ST.,
BOSTON.

22 May 1889

My dear Sir:

Your kind note of 20th took me rather by surprise, and I am sorry to know so little of the circumstances, but if I could be of service to the Institute in any way without neglecting important interests, nothing would give me more pleasure.

Very sincerely yours

T. M. Clark

Brunswick Maine
August 23d 1881

Prof. Wm B. Rogers

My dear Sir,

My engagements are such that I could not accept any appointment before the first of January 1882. With regard to the position of which you have written, I cannot say whether I should wish to be considered a candidate without knowing more of the methods of instruction at the Inst. of Technology than I do now. My notions in regard to teaching Civil Engineering are quite different from those held by many instructors. Seventy years of engineering practice have shown me quite clearly what sort of instruction is best for young

men intending to become engineers. I am not at all an advocate for the extremely theoretical instruction given in many of our schools. If the position of which you have written was vacant six months hence, and my ideas of the best mode of giving engineering instruction were agreeable to the managers of the Inst. of Tech. I should be glad to be regarded as a candidate for the engineering chair.

With many thanks for the contents of your letter, and with the very best wishes for your health,

I am my dear Sir
Very truly yours

Geo L. Vose

Relating to Election of

Prof. Geo L. Vose

Prof Vose

4

Boston Aug. 23 1881

Prof. Wm. B. Rogers

Dear Sir

Mr. Philbrick suggested to me that you might wish, for some purpose, to further confer with me and that it might be well for me to send you my address to you.

A letter addressed to me

66 Vernon Str.

Roxbury Mass

will always reach me. This you will find as my "permanent address" in the Alumni Record.

Respy Yours

Frank Allen

Newport Aug. 24. 1881.

Dear Mr. Swan.

Your letter of the 20th inst. was duly rec'd, and was followed two days later by the documents to which you refer, kindly sent me by Dr. C. W. Fillmore.

I have read them with much interest, and, with your permission, will retain them for some days longer to give some members of the Committee on Public School Comm. an opportunity of reading them.

The Committee will meet early next week to

Consider the Appointments ~~to~~
~~be made~~ When I shall
take Care to have your
~~Class~~ application properly
presented —

Yours faithfully

William B Rogers

X

Boston Aug 24, 1881

Prof. Wm. B. Rogers

Dear Sir

I desire to ask as a favor that, so far as I am concerned, you may decide as far as possible by action of the Committee on School, whether my services are likely to be required by the Institute.

My reason for haste is that I am now entertaining a business proposition from the West which requires a prompt answer. I shall be able to delay my reply

only a few days at most.

My preference is quite strong to remain in Boston, but failing this I wish to lose no ground by neglecting the opportunity offered me in Las Vegas.

If you will kindly hold your meeting as early as possible without injuring the interests of the Institute it will be of great advantage to me.

While in Newport I mentioned the fact of Mr Carson's absence from Boston. He has since then returned.

If not asking too much of you, I should be glad to be informed when the meeting is to be held so that I may arrange my matters accordingly.

Very respectfully Yours

Chas K Allen

Dear Sir

Aug. 25th 1881.

I have been disappointed in the hope which I expressed to you, that the Convention might be called together today or tomorrow for renewal of balloting of Candidates — and I think the weather hardly be favorable for a meeting until early next week.

Mr. Pettibone & I agree between us thinking that the Candidates of Reputation who have been informed his friends are ready as his friends will be prepared other things being equal by those who [illegible] consideration & that it would be preferable be convenient to your part to (anticipate) the decision in your favor and to arrange your present plans with the reference to the decision in your favor.

Thanking you for the offer of your services, gentlemen, of the

Yours

personally acquainted both
so heartily a son of the President
of Dartmouth bestow for you
the warmest wishes & sympathies I am

Yours faithfully
William B Rogers

P. S. I find that the Corr:
cannot have a meeting before
next Thursday at earliest

C. F. Allen.

Boston, Aug. 25, 1881.

Professor Rogers,

Dear Sir:-

I have seen Mr. Clark.

Had the proposition been made to him two or three years ago, before he had conquered his position, it would have been very attractive and would doubtless have been accepted. A little later, when he might have been expected to have accumulated a moderate fortune, it would also have served his purpose.

His present position is that his practice is now worth $5000 a year to him, and he feels that it would be too great a sacrifice to give this up in order to accept a professorship.

I cannot help fully agreeing with him in his conclusion.

[8/25/1881]

I then asked him to give us such advice as might be in his power in respect to the position; and I now enclose a note which he has written me upon the subject.

Yours very truly,

Edward Atkinson

(dictated.)

X

T. M. CLARK,
ARCHITECT,
178 DEVONSHIRE ST.,
BOSTON.

25 Aug. 1887

My dear Sir:

There has been some one in all the time, so that I could not see you before 11. There is a man in New York, Mr. Geo. Fletcher Babb, 57 Broadway, who might, I should think, make an excellent Professor for the Institute. He is an experienced architect, and is now quite busy, but he likes Boston much better than New York, and would, I think, make a considerable sacrifice to come here. He was for a long time partner of Mr. Russell Sturgis, and learned in a remarkably good habit of construction. Sturgis being a devoted Ruskinite, and enemy of shams; which he is a first rate designer also. We used to look up to him as a fountain of wisdom, when I was an enthusiastic student there.

After Mr. Charles Moore went to

Europe, or rather, before he went, they talked of making Mr. Babb instructor in Fine Art at Cambridge, and probably would have done so if they had continued the course in Mr. Moore's absence.

He is much the most eligible man I think of who has not already been mentioned. Longfellow seems to me the best of all, if he could be persuaded to change his mind, and Greenough, with perhaps a few lectures on practical points to supplement his work, ought to be very good. Have you thought of Putnam? He is well trained and experienced, and naturally of a scientific turn of mind.

There is another New York man, R. F. Hatfield, about whom I know very little, but his father and uncle R. G. and O. P. Hatfield, have been the most distinguished constructors in the country for a long time; so that the name alone would go a good way.

Prof. Wise may know more about him than I do. If there is anything I can do to help you at any time, please consider me entirely at your service.

Very sincerely yours

Mr. Edward Atkinson

Dr. Clark

Mass. Institute of Technology,
BOSTON, MASS.

Aug. 26th 1881

President Rogers
Dear Sir

Prof Nichols appears to be gaining slowly. He is very hopeful and thinks he may be able to ride out in two or three weeks. Probably two or three months would be nearer the mark. He has at length reluctantly come to the conclusion that he cannot do any work next term, but thinks he may possibly be able to attend to teaching the latter part of the year. He has been anxiously scheming about providing a substitute and about the arrangement of the work. It is neither necessary nor exactly proper for him to trouble himself in that way. He does not seem

consider that a professor has no right to appoint an instructor.

As it will soon be time to arrange for the coming year it might be well to inform Prof Nichols that he may have leave of absence for half the year, or more if necessary; that the salary will be continued; that he will not be expected to provide a substitute, but that the Government will, at the expense of the Institute, provide such helps as may be needed to carry on the work. It seems to me hardly the thing when we have two other professors in the Chemical department, to turn over the first year class entirely to any new instructor or to assistants. My own work includes two exercises a week in Biology with the third year class. This class will have another year with us and the subject might be put off till the following year, especially as the present third year class is not large, and subjects to follow do not necessarily hinge on the Biology. With this relief of work and with such assistance as can be procured I think it will be possible to attend to the first year class without employing a temporary Instructor and without much additional expense.

Prof Nichols has also been proposing to have the instruction of the Boston University students deferred till another year. But there are many reasons why this should not be done. We should lose one third of what they now pay us and this money will pay for all the help that is needed. What we receive from them is a considerable sum of money and moreover we are keeping them from providing this work otherwise and becoming a rival. It would be best to have their work carried on this year as usual

I am by no means desirous of further work or care, but whatever arrangement is made the responsibility of the work will necessarily fall on me as the senior member of the Chemical department. And it would seem more proper to employ assistants to do some of my drudgery rather than to have assistants to do work that would more naturally fall to a professor. I have no doubt that the instruction might be given very well by a young man who could devote his whole energies to the work, but the idea of turning over a class to assistants entirely would not impress the outside world very favorably. Of course it belongs to you or the Committee on the School to say what shall be done and I cannot therefore say anything definite yet to Dr Lindsay or to possible assistants

Respectfully yours
John M. Ordway

State College, Orono, Me.
Aug. 26. 1881.

Prest. Wm. B. Rogers,
Ms. of Technology. Boston.

Dear Sir:

Prof. W. A. Pike proved himself an efficient teacher of Civil Engineering in this institution. He had charge of the department nine years, giving excellent satisfaction especially during the last years of his service.

While not of robust health, he was rarely absent from duty. He manifested ability and tact in the management of students. His address is good and as an associate in the Faculty he was always considerate and agreeable.

Sincerely yours,
Jas. C. Fernald,
Prest. Me. State College.

Aug. 26, 1881

Dear Mr. Clark.

I have just received a note from Mr. C. M. enclosing a letter to him kindly designating Daniel Webster from our Committee to succeed Mr. Chase of Ark. in our Dist.

While I regret exceedingly that we cannot have the benefit of your services as the leading member of our Arch. Cmte

Mrs Defeo & I most heartily thank you for your suggestion, & if we prefer of forthwith had Rendered the request of the Dist to Phoebe Cousins & I shall avail myself of your kindness by requesting you, should you agree with Mr Babcock, forward you so appreciating kind to learn from him whether the word left to be assigned to the vacant Chair of Cmte in our Dist. or in other words whether the position would be acceptable to him.

While the present Salary with the
Rent of the finest Property in N. York is
only 2500 pounds a year & there is good
reason to expect that the forbearance
of the British will be very short
[illegible] a more adequate Salary
Provision for their Ministers.

You are well aware of the
hospitality & attentions shewn
by Mr. Adams & Dept
[illegible]. and will I am sure
agree with me in thinking that
it would Offend the People in
Charge of Most attractive
fields, to have their Ministers
[illegible] it, but for the
[illegible] of its further usefulness.

I have the pleasure of
[illegible] Mr. Babt. or I should write to him

Mr. Babt. Mr. Adams
Mr. Jay
Mr. Dana
Mr. Jefferson
Mr. Hamilton
Mr. Pickering
Mr. Wolcott
Mr. Lee
Mr. Ellsworth
Mr. Pinckney
Mr. Gerry
Mr. Marshall
Mr. Madison
Mr. Gallatin

Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D. C. Aug. 26th 1881

My Dear Sir:

In accordance with your desire I forward you a copy of the proceedings of the Academy at the last two meetings. You will probably have to re-arrange them for your report. I have omitted such personal matters as names of

members present at the meetings and unfavorable ballots of nominees for election. I believe everything else is included.

I have not yet made an abstract of my statements about Professor Watson's estate. It does not seem to me necessary to include it in your report but if you desire to do so I will forward it to you.

I hope I may have my velocity of light work out by November. But the work goes on with such great slowness and is so much dependent upon the weather that I cannot even now speak positively of its termination. My money is however so near gone that I

shall have to wind up active operations very soon.

The sad condition of the President who I think is the largest minded man that ever occupied the position makes me little inclined to discuss business matters. But should the present Secretary of the Treasury remain I have little

[8/26/1881]

doubt that Mr Hilgard will be appointed to the Coast Survey.

My family are all out of town but were they here would heartily join me in kind regards to yourself and Mrs Rogers.

Yours very truly
Simon Newcomb

President W. B. Rogers
Newport
R. I.

Newport August 27.
1881

Dear Mr. Carson.

I am anxious to have a talk with you about the Candidates for the Chair of Civ: Engineering in the Institute & shall go to Boston on Tuesday morning to remain some days if necessary for conference with the Committee & if possible for deciding on one or both of the ~~for coming to a decision~~ appointments.

Prof. Church of Cornell - who is represented as strong in Mathematics, but of small practical experience, Prof. Pike

formerly of the State College in Maine, one of our Older Alumni; & Mr. C. F. Allen another of our Alumni who is I believe well known to you, are Candidates for the vacant Chair; & furthermore Prof. Geo. L. Rose late of Bowdoin College, with whose work I suppose you are acquainted, is likely also to be our Applicant.

You will be able greatly to aid our judgement of their relative qualifications, & Mr. Philbrick & I will be very anxious to confer with you. Mr. Allen paid us a short visit some days since, and is quite urgent in wishing an early decision ~~to~~ ~~for as his name is not canvassed,~~ & your personal knowledge of him is ~~will be~~ important.

Please let me know if ~~the~~ ~~can favor us with a call with the Brunswick or both of us might meet you~~ ~~Hotel on Sunday evening, or at the Institute on Tuesday~~ ~~if you can meet one or both of us the~~ ~~Morning at 9 o'clock, or say~~ ~~Brunswick Hotel at about 6 P.M.~~ at what hour & place it would be most convenient for you to ~~meet~~ meet us. I can not be in Boston until near 11 o'clock on Tuesday.

With sincere regard

Yours faithfully

William B Rogers

Howard A Carson, Esq.

over.

P.S.

Prof. Vose has promised to meet us at the Institute on Wednesday Morn.g at 11 O'clock, when ~~on Monday~~ and I most earnestly hope ~~the~~ you will be able to join us — ~~at 11~~

Thus you see my dear Mr. Carson that I am making two calls on your valuable time, but neither need be long, & that on Tuesday, (relating especially to Mr. Clark), will I presume be ~~very~~ brief —

G. B. R.

Boston, Aug. 27, 1881.

Professor W. B. Rogers:

Dear Sir:— I regret very much to be obliged to give you formal notice of my inability to take up my duties at the Institute before the beginning of the Second Term of the year. I have delayed writing until now for several reasons, among which were a desire to obtain from the physicians a more definite idea of the time when I can begin work and a desire, with my own confession of inability, to suggest a possible solution of the difficulty.

The solution is this:—

Professor Wing has very kindly consented to spare his head-assistant, Mr. Robbins, to give the lectures to the First Year's Class and Professor Ordway informs me that Mr. Stanton, one of our former students who expects this year to enter as a "resident-graduate", will be able and willing to assist with the Laboratory classes. I shall see all these young men and give them their starting directions

I doubt if you can appreciate fully the regret that I have in thus being obliged to leave my Institute work, but it is a matter over which I have no control and I shall endeavor to improve my time so as to do better work when

I return.

I am very much obliged for the interest you have taken in my sickness and I may say that I am progressing - but slowly. I now sit up three or four hours a day, generally in my library thinking (with compunction) of what I might be doing. I hope to get down stairs and perhaps out next week.

Mrs. Nichols joins with me in sending our best regards to Mrs. Rogers and yourself.

Yours most respectfully,

Benj. Apthorp Nichols

Relating to Prop. Nichols
~~[illegible]~~ substitution for Lord
Chas Lennox's & Lord
Abercorn -
1881-2.

Aug. 25. 1881

Prof. Geo L Vose

Dear Sir

I have read with pleasure your letter of the 23rd inst. which reached me last night

If you could make it convenient to meet me and one or two of our Committee or Directors next Wednesday Morning at 11 o'clock at the Institute we should be much obliged to you as such an interview would be a great more satisfactory means of understanding your views & making known our own than any amount of correspondence

As the ~~Practical~~ Departmental
pure & applied Mathes. are
very fully provided for at the Inst.,
the Bd of Dirs would be expected
to give a large measure of her
attention to engineering practice
& construction.

Please let me know by letter
I mail or by Telegram whether you can
meet me at the time & place above
mentioned & believe me ever
truly & sincerely yours

William B Rogers

P.S. Should you find it more convenient to
be in Boston on Tuesday morning, I shall
go up on that day instead of Wednesday
to meet you.

Yours truly
William B Rogers

Prof Wolcott

mil

R

X

Newport Aug: 28th
1881.

Dear Mr Rogs.

Your letter, enclosing that of Mrs Sage, asking your interest towards the appoint-ment of her husband as Mil: Instructor in the Inst:, is just received.

Late in July last Dr Hayes wrote me a letter on the same subject, to which I at once replied, telling him that Col. Chadwick our Mil^y Inst^r - last year, who was much liked by all parties, was expected to continue in our service for the coming Session.

I think that I also mentioned, tho' of this I am not positive,

the fact that applications had already been made by several other U.S. Army Officers of repute, one of them dating at least two years ago.

I know that Dr. Hayes received my letter, as I have his kind acknowledgement in which he also states that he had written me on the subject at his daughter's request. One of the above applicants Lieut. Howes of Roxbury has especially strong claims.

Correspondence & other matters connected with the vacant chairs has kept me very busy through the summer. The salary we offer is so small as to make it difficult to secure eligible appointments. The three most prominent candidates for the Civ. Engr. Chair, after more or less hesitation & correspondence, have been unwilling to accept. Nor have we yet found our man for the Chair of Architecture.

I am in hopes however that in the course of a week both these troublesome problems will be settled as there are several quite promising candidates under consideration.

I go to Boston on Tuesday to remain several days on acct. of this business as well as to provide some substitute for Prof. Nichols during his convalescence &c.

I have often this summer urged Prof. Ordway to take rest, & feel as you do some anxiety about his health.

I told him lately that he should go away for a fortnight.

With kindest regards to yourself & family, in which Mrs Rogers unites, believe me

Yours faithfully

William B Rogers.

(dictated).

Mr. D. Ross Esqre

Mr. B. Bryce
Aug. 28, 1882

2, Billings Place, Roxbury,
Boston, Aug. 29, 1881.

Professor Wm. B. Rogers:

Dear Sir:

Your very kind letter of the 27th inst. came to hand this morning, crossing, no doubt, mine of the same date.

I thank you very much for the renewed expressions of sympathy and interest and for the assurance of the willingness of the Committee on the School to make good my loss.

There was one point which I am fearing to-day that I forgot to mention yesterday, — or rather when I last

wrote. It is this: that my expectation of being able to go to work at the beginning of the Second Term is based upon the opinion of both of my physicians, who, without committing themselves to prophecy, have said that they think it probable that I can so do.

Yours very respectfully,

Wm. Ripley Nichols

Boston, 30th Aug. 1887

Dear Sir:

In conversation with Mr. Clark the other day Mr. Atkinson spoke of me as having declined the professorship of Architecture at the M. I. T. on account of ~~silly~~ health. My reasons, which I did not mention in my note to you, were so different from this that it seems to me worth while to correct this impression.

Several reasons influenced me; but the decisive ones were the small

-ness of the salary, and the discouraging report of the work. It is work that would attract me, but it would be difficult and exacting, and of such a kind that the professor, unless he were in full accord with the management of the Institute, might find his place thoroughly uncomfortable, even without fault on either side. I felt confidence after my conversation with you that I should find myself in sympathy with your own ideas; but you are on the point of leaving the Institute, and I could not gather that the authorities, whose answer to my suggestion was vague, and did not fairly meet my proposition, took the view that I did of the magnitude and difficulty of the work.

I find also that there is an apprehension among the best men in my profession here that the Trustees may make a serious mistake in the management of their Architectural department from not showing what appears to Architects the right understanding of its wants. It seems to me, as to my fellow architects, that there are but two ways in which the Institute can safely carry on ~~its~~ such a department. Thus far its course has amounted to

little on what I may call the technological side, while it is still incomplete on the purely architectural side. To permanently maintain a course of architecture without a complete course of building would be singularly out of keeping for this Institute, and I may assume that there is no idea of this. It might, then, fill out the architectural course to completness, and add an adequate technological course. But to do justice to the architectural work would require that the present force of instructors be doubled;

[8/30/1881] (2)

and for the technological side special courses would need to be furnished; for the experience of other schools shows that it is unsatisfactory and wasteful for architectural students to follow the technical courses provided for other profs. For all this the means which the Institute appears ready — perhaps able — to provide are altogether inadequate, and it would in my opinion be very unwise for me to attempt what Prof. Ware has found himself unable to accomplish to his satisfaction. In the Archi

-tectural school at Zurich, which I had a chance to examine in Zurich last spring, there are half as many pupils as you have had in the Institute, but there are four special pro-fessors, with additional in-structors, and courses from professors in other departments.

The alternative it seems to me is to furnish a complete technological course for architects, with so much of purely archi-tectural instruction as should be necessary to give consistency and point to the other. For this I suppose the Institute is ex-ceptionally well equipped. It might here do with its present means, I should think, a very important work, successfully, and without the loss of prestige which I fear for it, if it should attempt to cover the whole ground with inadequate provision.

I did not see any place for these impressions in my previous note to you. It does not belong to me to obtrude them upon the Institute; but I venture to mention them to you, and I should be pleased to have the Authorities of the Institute know that

it was not ill health that made me unwilling to undertake the professorship.

Pray pardon this intrusion upon your patience, to which your kindness has encouraged me.

Very truly yours

W. P. P. Longfellow

Prof. W. B. Rogers

Newport.

August 30th 1881.

Prof. John M. Ordway,
Boston.

My dear Sir.

I address you this note for the purpose of inquiring whether the matter of appointing the new instructors at the Institute is yet completed: and also whether it would be necessary for me to make a formal application in writing in order to be considered a candidate?

I would also be glad to know your opinion in regard to the probability of my being able to obtain the position at the Institute of which

we were speaking when I last saw you?

I should be pleased to call at the Institute and see you about it, at any time convenient to yourself, if you so desire.

A postal sent to my address would reach me without delay.

Very truly yours.
Geo. L. Perry.
65 Pearl St.
Charlestown.
Mass.

T. M. CLARK,
ARCHITECT,
178 DEVONSHIRE ST.,
BOSTON.

X

30 Aug. 1887.

My dear Sir:

As you requested in your note of Friday, I wrote Mr. Babb at once, and at some length, requesting him also, as the time is short, to communicate directly with you. I have heard nothing from him yet, and suppose that he may be out of town. In case you have not yet received an answer from him, you may be glad to know that the letter was sent him promptly; and I have written again to his partner to have it forwarded in case he should be away.

Very truly yours

T. M. Clark

GEO. FLETCHER BABB
And WALTER COOK ARCHITECTS

57 Broadway N. Y.

Aug. 31st 1881

My Dear Mr. Clark.

Thank you for the kind letter which I received from you day before yesterday. When I first read it over I had several ~~things~~ on my hands and so missed the sentence on the bottom of the second page which says there is hurry for an answer. So I hope to be excused for the short delay. I thank you for proposing my name to Mr. Rogers; and I feel myself honored by the offer. I feel no doubt whatever of all you say in regard to the pleasantness of the surroundings, and especially no doubt of the cordiality of the Architects and Institute people. No one, I imagine, would ever need to wish for a better greeting than I should get. But, after looking at the proposition on all sides, I feel that I must decline. In the first place I do not think I am exactly fitted by temperament for

such a position. In the second place I should feel that I must once for all and finally give myself ~~up~~ and all my time up to two things; — fitting myself to learn, and teaching. I should feel pretty well convinced that I could never try any more experiments. Now I like learning a great deal better than teaching, or trying to teach; so, when I reflect on how hard it is to do the first, (in our profession,) I am quite alarmed to think of trying to do the second. You see, I am not quite willing to give up the chance of trying to do something a little better than some of my neighbors could do it, as long as I have to stick to my profession and make a labor of it one way or another. Thank you again for all your kindness, and hope that you will believe that I do not doubt at all the pleasant side if I could accept.

Very Truly Yours

Lyn. Fletcher Babb.