12 Papers, September 1881

Newport Sept 18. '81

Dear Mr Swan

Your telegram of the 16th inst: gave me great pleasure as does your letter of the same date rec^d yesterday.

In my message to you at Washington directed to Genl Walker I had no space for an explanation of the addition made to the salary. The vote of the Corporation electing you fixed the compensation at the amount ($800.) paid other instructors as it would have been unjust to them to make your salary higher than theirs, & the Corporation is not ~~quite~~ yet ready to make an

advance in all as they hope to do.

A kind friend of the Inst, to whom I wrote promptly agreed to be responsible for the additional $200 to be paid to you.

Before leaving Prof. Rose I could not advise you of the special duties which will fall to your care. I shall probably meet him in Boston tomorrow & speak with him on the subject. But it is important for you to have a personal conference with him as soon as possible to arrange the plan of your work, You may then find him ready to adjust his plans at the beginning so as to allow of ~~your~~ the delay desired.

Hoping to see you soon to welcome you among us

believe me

yours faithfully

William B Rogers.

George F. Swain Esq.

Boston, Sept. 18/81.

Dear Prof. Rogers:

It came into my mind this P.M., in thinking over various things that there was a clause in my last note which <u>might</u> be interpreted in two ways. I do not know that a wrong interpretation <u>would</u> be put upon it, but a person who has nothing to do but <u>think</u>, fears all sorts of things.

Of course, when I spoke of its being an <u>injury</u> <u>to the school</u> to have Prof Ordway take my lectures I meant on account of the time which must be taken from his own work.

Of course, in the abstract it would be a great advantage to the school to have him

give my lectures but under the circumstances it seems to me it will better to have a smaller man and save the Professor.

Of course, I do not mean to seem to dictate in any way, I only state my views for consideration.

Yours respectfully,

Wm Ripley Nichols

Boston, Sept. 20/81

Professor Rogers:

Dear Sir:

When the Committee was appointed to supply my vacancy, I was glad that Prof. Wing and Prof. Ordway were both on it, because I felt that the whole load would not fall on one man. I thought that Prof. Wing would look after the lectures & Prof. Ordway after the lab'y work, — especially as Mr. Robbins was proposed as lecturer.

I have just heard (informally) that Prof. Wing declines to take any responsibility. If my information is correct I wish to with—

draw my plea for Mr. Robbins for if Prof.r Ordway is to have or feel the responsibility for the lectures, they certainly should be given by a person acceptable to him. At the same time I feel it is putting a "breaking-load" on Prof.r Ordway.

Yours respectfully,

Mrs Ripley Nichols.

Newport Sep. 20. 1881

Dear Gen. Walker

I truly sympathize with you in the embarrassment & anxiety expressed in your letter, & shall do all I can to relieve you of as much of it as relates to the Institute, until you are ready to assume the charge of its affairs.

Of course I have until lately expected to be released from Inst. work at the opening of the Lafayette. But now that the answers and perplexing work of filling the vacant chairs has been accomplished in a way to be very satisfactory I can write I must have further extraordinary duties to be attended to.

The Entrance Exam: will be held 10 minutes after the hour day & the School will open on Monday next the 26th.

By that time we shall know the wishes of the Regular 1st Years Class & be able to judge as to the probable total of all the Classes for the Session, of which I shall see that you are informed which you should choose to be present.

I must conclude, hoping that the New Year will be reported return the Old Cabinet —

Yours

W. B. R.

Providence, R. I.
Sept. 22. 1881

Prof. Wm B. Rogers,
Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 18th inst. would have been acknowledged sooner if I had not been endeavoring to finish up my work in New York as soon as possible. Having succeeded in finishing my report yesterday, I am now in hopes that I can enter upon my duties at the Institute promptly on Monday next.

I received yesterday a letter from Prof Rose, requesting me to meet him at the Institute—

[9/22/1881]

on Saturday at 10 A. M., to make some plans for our work, - which I shall be very glad to do.

Hoping that I may have the pleasure of seeing and of thanking you soon. I am

Very respectfully yours
George F. Swain.

Gen F. Swain
Sept. 22, 1881

1)

Sept. 23. 1881

Dear Prof Nichols

I should not replied to your second letter lately received, because of my unwillingness to trouble you with any discussion of the proposed plan & because I have felt that further enquiry & deliberation would lead to some arrangement which would be cheerfully agreed to by all.

You ~~letter~~ last letter takes in consideration both the fact that Prof Ordway can give a lecture he delivered without detriment of his work with the Biology Class in order to assume the responsibility & pay of the work of your department

or else the assume the responsibility

2). Removes all hesitation from my mind as to the desirability of such an arrangement.

When Mr Baker yesterday I conferred with him on the subject, and I am sure that it will be his endeavour as your confidential solicitor to carry out your instructions & wishes in the spirit from & in the solicitude.

You will I think feel more entirely at ease under this arrangement than under one in which I have simply ~~[illegible]~~ placed at first, you could not while about absent yourself ~~[illegible]~~ loss of constitutional responsibility.

You may rely upon it my dear Boy, that every thing will

3)

be done in the arrangement proposed to prepare your classes to pass easily, easily into your charge when your restored health enables you to resume your work at the Institute.

I am happy in the hope that you may now dismiss all care & anxiety on the subject from your thoughts, & that you will consider only those circumstances which will secure the speediest & most complete restoration of your precious health. This is the first interest of us all in regard to you not only because of your great value to the Inst. but because of the warm regard which we feel for you.

With the regards of Mrs. R. & Mrs. R. ~~sincerely~~ I remain ever
Yours faithfully
W B R

Mrs. P.

To Prof. Nichols

Sept. 23. 1881

Newport Sept. 28. 1881

Dear Prof Venable

Since rec.d your letter mentioning the Telegram to Prof Gould of the Cordoba Observ.y I have seen ~~Mrs Gould~~ his wife, who, in the course of a short visit to her friends at home has been passing a day with Mrs Rogers ~~who~~ of her intimate friends. ~~is at Newport~~.

From what she told me of the prospects of Prof. G.s work I infer that he has been expecting to remain at C. until the publication is nearly or quite completed; which may occupy one & a half to two years.

I am of opinion that he would be attracted to the position at the University were it to be open to him at that time, though at present often called upon for an immediate answer to your telegram he may ~~might~~ feel obliged to decline.

It would be well I think to allow him some time for consideration & for writing to you at ~~length~~ to his pleasure.

The appointment would be so excellent both on the ground of Prof. Geological qualifications & of the reputation it would bring to the new department, that perhaps it is consident of the difficulty of filling the place so ably, it might be thought wise to wait for him for a ~~few~~ year or two, provided you could be assured of his coming at ~~time~~ the appointed time.

I have ~~[illegible]~~ no positive probability ~~[illegible]~~ of ~~[illegible]~~ Prof. G. would decide either now or at future, ~~but~~ but that it is that the suspension ~~[illegible]~~ seems ~~[illegible]~~ Scott's ~~[illegible]~~ ~~of his~~ remarks to me ~~[illegible]~~ be of interest to you at this time.

Prof. ~~I. M.~~ Clark who is to have charge of the Dep. of Building & Architecture, is very favorably known to the profession as well for his Artistic & literary culture in connection with it as for the peculiar interest he has shown in the practical & technological studies which are essential to its most useful developement. He has been one of the editors & is a frequent contributor to our leading architectural journal, & is alive to all questions relating to the constructive as well as the artistic ~~side~~ aspects of the profession.

The Dep. ~~will have of Architecture~~ will further have the valuable cooperation of Mr. W. P. Longfellow, who has accepted the position of Adjunct Prof. & who will have special charge of the instruction in Architectural Design, a subject in which he is known to be eminently ~~skilled~~ accomplished. At the same time Mr Sedang will continue his important services in connection with this Dep. P. The new feature (is to be introduced) of an Architectural Laboratory, where the student ~~shall~~ what may be called be familiarized with the

materials & simpler processes & modes of testing employed in the work of construction.

To add still further to the efficiency of the ~~Architecture~~ Dept.; the plan has been adopted of courses of lectures, to be given by members of the profession or others, not belonging to the School, on special topics artistic or constructive, germane to ~~the Objects of the Dept.~~ Building Architecture, these subjects & lecturers varying more or less from year to year according to annual appointment. For the ensuing session the Lecturers & Topics will be as follows.

Mr Henry Van Brunt – On the theory of Ornament
Mr Arthur Roach – On Decorative Painting
Mr C. A. Cummings On Interior Design
Mr J. H. Sturgis On Stained Glass & Mosaic.

Notices of Instr. Lectures 1881. 2

Cor BB

Kastner
Sept. 1882

Wm. B. Rogers.
President of School Committee.
Dear Sir.

I have the honor to present the following account of the progress made in my department during the past year. We have had ten graduates, and nine of them are in situations. The course in weaving has been a success, and I have been enabled to supply designers for woolen and gingham mills. I have had a full class, and am constantly obliged to refuse applicants, because of lack of space, also could not attend to more at present. We have two exhibits, one of sixty frames at the New England Institute, the other of fifty frames at the Charitable Mechanics Fair. With increasing number of pupils, the work has largely increased during the last few years, and I am often obliged to take the advanced pupils from

their work, to assist me with the new ones. I have given all my time and energy to the work, and now feel that an assistant is needed to successfully carry on the work. I have among the advanced pupils a young lady possessing the qualities required, and with her aid, I could give much more time to the second, and third year students. The salary that I should propose for her, would be, five dollars per week for the thirty six weeks of the term. I do not anticipate that the expenses this year will be heavy, as I am very well supplied with patterns and materials for the weaving department.

Mr. Fisher, the young man who has charge of the looms, has asked me for an increase in his pay. He at present receives ten dollars, and would like fifteen a week. He has been very faithful, and thoroughly

understants machinery as well as weaving, and would recommend the advance.

I am anxious that the school should succeed, and advance more each year, and earnestly hope you will grant the requests I have made.

Respectfully submitted,

Chas. Kastner per. H.

Director of Lowell School of Design

September 1881

X

Boston, 13th Sept. 1887.

My dear Sir:

I thank you for your kind note of yesterday which tells me of the action of the Corporation of the Institute in appointing me adjunct professor of mechanics; and will try to perform the duties of the position acceptably. It is pleasant to know at the same time that although you give up the presidency of the Institute you do not withdraw from the management of it.

I ought to add that I did

not think of promising to share Mr. Clark's work beyond the year that now begins, knowing that I cannot do real justice to the work by the attendance on one day in the week that I have agreed to give. I trust therefore that the corporation does not look upon me as committed to retain the position; nor can I think that an arrangement like the present one will permanently satisfy the needs of the school.

Very truly yours

W. T. P. Dayfield

Prof. W. B. Rogers, Newport.

New York, Sept. 13, 81

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

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter from Boston informing me of my election.

I must beg the privilege of deferring for a few days at least, the acceptance of the position tendered me, or until I can consult with my uncle and with General Walker. I saw Prof. Trowbridge yesterday. The salary offered me is so very small that there is not the slightest inducement on that score to accept the position, and I had hoped from your previous letter, which said that it had been raised, that I should be offered a little more than just enough to support me.

I am therefore obliged to
let other considerations
decide, and it is with regard to
the prospect regarding the Census
work that I must see General
Walker. I took you that Prof. Trow-
bridge wished me to take charge of
the preparation of the report on
bridges. This work would give me
far more reputation and be of
far greater benefit to me than a
year's teaching at the Institute. The
first thing, then, is to find out
whether there is reasonable certain-
ty that this work will be done, and
I leave for Washington tonight to
consult with General Walker
about it. There are four alterna-
tives, which will be decided at this
interview, and I shall then be
able to let you know with cer-
tainty my decision. They are
as follows:

1°. If the bridge work is
sure to be done, I shall
stay in my present position
and do it, unconditionally.

2°. If I could do this bridge work
and at the same time accept the
position at the Institute, I will
do it, - and this is what I hope
for; but it will render it necess-
ary for me to have leave of absence
from the Institute this winter for 2
or 3 months, for the purpose of
visiting the various bridge-building
establishments.

3°. If I could <u>not</u> do the bridge
work and accept your position
besides, then I shall be obliged to
decline your ~~off~~ appointment —
supposing always that there is a
reasonable certainty of the bridge
work being done.

4°. If the bridge work is <u>not</u> to
be done, then I shall accept your

appointment.

You see, Sir, that it depends entirely upon whether the bridge work is to be done or not, and upon whether you could grant me leave of absence sufficient to collect the data for my report.

I am sure that you will understand my position, and will not blame me for looking at the matter as I do. If I were rich, I might well afford to overlook the matter of salary, but as it is I cannot. Further, I consider it of the highest importance that I do the bridge work if it is to be done, and I should subordinate everything to that. There has never been a report or a treatise published in this country which has covered the ground that mine would, and at the present

[9/13/1881]

day it is necessary to go to French and German libraries for books treating of American bridges. I could at once find practical employment at a much higher salary than is offered in Boston, and Prof. Winkler has advised me not to go to teaching too soon. For these reasons, I wish to do the bridge work under any circumstances, if it is to be done.

After seeing General Walker tomorrow, then, I shall be able to reply definitely. If the bridge work is to be done, I shall make my acceptance contingent on my being able to get proper leave of absence.

I desire here to express to you my continued gratitude for your kind interest, which I fully appreciate.

I am aware that the finances of the Institute are not in a very prosperous condition, and fully understand all the circumstances. I hope on my part that my position may be understood. It would be most agreeable to my feelings to return to my former endeared associations at Boston if my best interests would be thereby promoted.

Very respectfully yours
George F. Swain

X

New York, Sept. 13, '81

Prof. Wm B. Rogers,

Dear Sir,

Since writing this morning I have received a telegram from Washington saying that General Walker would probably be away tomorrow, but that he would be there on Thursday. I shall therefore be unable to leave him tonight as I intended, but will go to-morrow night. I have endeavored to hasten as fast as possible in taking the steps necessary to enable me to decide. Your letter from Boston, of last Friday, which reached me Saturday afternoon, was the first on which I could take any definite steps. I telegraphed to New Haven to inquire when Prof. Trowbridge would return, received a reply from him himself, went up there

yesterday to consult with him, and he advised me by all means to see General Walker, who will be the very person to advise me, as he will know just what the prospects for the bridge work will be, and is at the same time now connected with the Institute, I hear. Returning last night from New Haven, I telegraphed at once to Washington to ask if Genl. W. would be there tomorrow, and have now received a reply. From my uncle in Providence I have already heard, so that Genl. W. is the only one I have now to see.

You will, I am sure, appreciate the haste I have made, and the unavoidable delay in forming my decision. I hope to telegraph you from Washington on Thursday the result of my deliberations.

If it were not that the salary is so very small, with no apparent chance of increase, I should not be obliged to deliberate so. I am sure that you will appreciate my position, and will allow me the time necessary to see Genl. Walker and to come to a decision which will be for my best interest.

Yours very respectfully,
George F. Swain.

J.

Newport Sept. 13. 1881

Dear Prof. Rose,

Your election to the Chair of Civ: & Top. Engineering in the Institute, by the "Comm: on Instruction" was formally approved at the Meeting of the Corporation on Friday

last, but knowing that you would consider this a foregone conclusion I have been rather tardy in announcing it to you.

Young W. Swain whom we have appointed Instructor in the Department is expecting but will send me his decision by ~~[illegible]~~ in a day or two.

You will see his to days ~~Daily~~ Boston Advertiser in notice of your ~~[illegible]~~ the late appointments.

Bidding you a hearty welcome to the Dept. I am dear Prof. yours truly W.S.B.

Blank No. 1.

10

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

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A. R. BREWER, Sec'y. 840 NORVIN GREEN, President.

8

Dated New York 188 1

Received at Sept 12

To Prof Wm B Rogers

Cannot decide till I see General Walker tomorrow See Letter

G P Swain

10 paid

G.

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

X

Morningside
Bellevue Avenue
Newport

Sept. 13. 1881.

Dear Mr. Kidder.

The aid you so kindly proposed us in the matter of Prof. Green's agreeing to come to the Institute has not been availed of, as in spite of this liberality he finally withdrew his acceptance of the Chair of Engineering at the Institute. We have however secured Prof. Vose one of the ablest Engineers &

If I could offer him $200 in addition, ~~furthermore~~ making him ~~any~~ exception among our Instructors, he would probably accept the place.

Would it be asking too much of you — that I may be allowed to promise him this Addition for the present, ~~until the~~ as there is little doubt that the Dist. will soon be able to increase the salaries of the Instructors to the extent —

If you approve ~~my~~ please reply by Telegraph — to yours faithfully

H. P. Hedden Esq. W. B. R.

Teacher in the Country — for this position, she will enter on her duties at once.

At the same time we elected Henry Wm. Sawain, a very distinguished grad: of the Dist; who has been since continuing his studies in Berlin to be the ~~principal assistant~~ or Instructor in this Department — But the very small salary of $800 usually paid to our Instructors ~~this year~~ makes him hesitate, as his talents would bring him far better pay in active field work.

Charlestown, Mass. Sep. 14. '81.

William B. Rogers L. L. D.
Pres. Mass. Inst. Technology.
Newport. R.I.

Dear Sir.

I should esteem it a favor if you would have the kindness to inform me, as soon as convenient, what action, if any, has been taken by the government of the Institute in regard to the appointment of assistants for the coming year.

At the first interview which I had with Prof. Ordway, which was early in August, he told me that at least two assistants would have to be appointed

one in civil engineering and one in drawing.

I told him at that time, that if I were to choose between those two I should prefer the civil engineering.

I do not know whether he so informed you, or not.

I trust you will pardon me for troubling you about this matter, but I am quite anxious to be informed in regard to it.

Very truly yours.

Geo. L. Perry,
65 Pearl St.
Charlestown
Mass.

Boston, Sept. 15, 1881.

Prest Rogers,

Chm of Comm. on Chem. Vacancy:

Dear Sir:

The turn that my sickness has taken is such that I shall be in this neighborhood for a number of weeks yet and although I am weak in the limbs I am able to talk and think.

The work of a chemical department is very different from a mathematical, for instance, and, of course, there are a great many things about the laboratory which I have in hand which could not be so easy for a stranger to pick up.

As my absence will be but temporary I presume there will be no disposition to change the existing order of things and unless the Committee object I propose, to assign desks myself to the second years students

To see Mr. Lindsay and instruct him in the mysteries of the assignment of desks, coat-racks, etc.

To give him hints as to the filling of bottles, etc.

To lay out and put into Mr. Lindsay's charge the unknown substances for the second year.

To instruct Messrs. Lindsay and Stantial as to the First Year laboratory work and as to starting the classes in it.

Of course no one can do these things to suit me as well as I can myself and when the things are started a large part of the labor is done. Of course, also the young men will need counsel and advice as they meet with difficulties but I think I can prepare them so as save the Committee a great deal of trouble.

Yours respectfully,

Jno. Pepper Nichols

University of Va
Feb 16 1881

My dear Mr Rogers

I hope you will not consider me a bore & a dun in asking you to send me the last instalment of two hundred and fifty dollars (which by arrangement was payable this fall) of your kind subscription to our Observatory Fund. Our Board meets on the 28th inst. & I wish to be through with all the collections by that date if possible. I have been much favored in the collections as less than $2000 of the whole amount subscribed remains now unpaid. We are getting on very well & we

about putting in the foundation
walls of the Observatory. With
kind regards to Wm Rogers
and the hope that the
superb sea-air of Newport
saved you from the great
discomforts of the hot summer

I am most truly yours
Chas S Venable

Rev Wm B Rogers LL.D.

X

New York, N. Y.
Sept. 16. 1881

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

Dear Sir,

I received this morning a telegram from General Walker saying that $200 additional has been offered me. I have already telegraphed you my acceptance of the position, — and at $1,000 a year I shall feel as though I had done the best thing possible. I have been very much in doubt, and my mind in Providence has been rather opposed to my accepting the position. I am satisfied, however, that I can give satisfaction, and that you will find me worthy of the salary, and I am sure that I shall enjoy the work.

I returned from Washington last evening, having conferred

with General Walker regarding the bridge work. He does not wish to have it done at once, and says that it can be done next summer, so that I shall be able to take it up during the vacation. My present report I can finish without difficulty at my leisure.

In my telegram I stated that I should not be able to reach Boston for two weeks. I hope, however to be able to finish my present report by the middle of next week, and I shall then leave for Providence. It will then be necessary to put things in order, and to pack my large engineering library, which I think it will be best to take to Boston. I cannot say just how long this will take, but if I can do it in a day or two I may be able to reach Boston on Tuesday, or perhaps Monday. I have a large collection of the standard French and German engineering works, which I wish to be able to use in my instruction, and to put at the disposal of the students to a certain extent, but it is considerable work to transfer it.

I shall enter on my work with all my energies, and my whole heart & soul shall be devoted to it. If you could let me know any details regarding my work - whether I shall have any courses of lectures to deliver, and if so, on what subjects, etc. etc., I might be preparing for them, to some extent. If you think it would be advisable to communicate with Prof. Rose at once on the subject, I will do so. And finally, if you think it would be necessary for me to be in Boston

promptly on Monday the 26th, I will in some way manage to do so, either by pushing my work harder here, or by deferring part of what I have to do in Providence.

It will be a great pleasure to me to renew my old associations in Boston, and I hope that I may have from the pleasure of thanking you in person for the interest and you have shown in me, for your kindness in the whole matter, and of assuring you that I fully appreciate it and that it will be my sincerest endeavor to show myself worthy of it all.

Very respectfully yours
Geo. F. Swain.

Washington.
Sept. 16. 1881.

Dear Professor Royce:

The President's condition has kept me for many weeks in a state of the greatest uncertainty respecting my immediate future.. Just before the President was wounded I had a full & satisfactory interview with him, in which he assented to my request to be allowed to conduct the work to its conclusion, from Boston, leaving my chief clerk in immediate charge. The last

of the Interior abroad seemed, most cordially, both arrangements.

Then came the shooting & that I supposed that a week or two would determine the fate of Garfield — Week after week, hope has alternated with despair; & the bulletins of this afternoon simply confirm the assurances given yesterday —

If a change of administration is to take place, I cannot control my movements. I cannot presume to say what a new Secretary or a new President might do. a President whom I not slightly know; a Secretary whose name cannot even be conjectured, at present. May be obliged to stay here and watch my work and defend my Bureau.

When in Boston three weeks ago, I saw Mr Atkinson and Mr Cummings, and explained my embarrassment — At that time it was reported that the President cover hardly live from day to day. & I supposed I should soon be able to make a decision.

Then came another period of

recorded hopefulness, and, now, to-day's despatches from Long Branch have thrown a gloom & settling down again upon the hopes of the country. Altogether I have been so agitated by the President's condition, both generally as affecting the country, and personally, as determining my own actions that it has fairly made me sick, and unnerved me in a degree very unusual to me -

Sincerely Yours

P. H. Walker

Arch

V

Mass. Institute of Technology,

BOSTON, MASS.

Sept 17th 1881

President Rogers

Dear Sir

The loss of six days brought such an accumulation of work that I had only time to send the advertisements to all the city papers to come out twice. It has appeared in some of them but I do not know whether all have inserted it yet. The telegram was left at Mr Atkinson's office shortly after I received it, but he was not in at the time. It was too late however to do anything about it as the communications had already been pointed.

I have been hoping to hear from you as to Mr Perry and Mr Adams for assistants should be secured immediately, in the drawing department and there is a great scarcity of suitable persons.

Hearing nothing as to the Boston University class I have been obliged to make the arrangements for receiving them as they wish to begin next Wednesday.

The letter from Mr Kimball I replied to last night, not having any chance to write during the day

Respectfully yours
John M. Ordway

Maplewood
N.H.

My dear Mr Rogers

Your note of 13th was forwarded to me here - asking if you might use what I had offered to contribute to secure Prof Green to enable you to engage Mr Swain

I replied by wire "Yes" with pleasure. which I now confirm.

When again in Boston I will see Mr Tappan and arrange it with him. The weather here is perfect and I am finding the rest I came for

Always with sincere regard

Yours

H. A. Hidden

18/9/81