10

Papers, May - Dec. 1882

Nautical Almanac Office,

Navy Department,

Washington, D. C., May 5th 1882.

Sir:

A special meeting of the Transit of Venus Commission is called for Saturday, May 6th at 2 P.M. at the Nautical Almanac Office.

Very respectfully

S. Newcomb

Secretary of the Commission

President W. B. Rogers,

University of Virginia, Va.,
May 8th 1882

Prof. Wm B. Rogers,

Dear Sir,

I had already written to you addressing Boston, as I did not then know that you would stop in Washington. I was very sorry to find, on my return here, the 4th, that you had left. I understood from Prof. Smith that you would not visit the University until my return. I wished to ask you about the status of my work on the Charlie Horse. After submitting it to Prof. Powell, I had avoided troubling him about the matter, supposing that it would be attended to in due time, but the delay has made me rather impatient.

My chief desire in the matter is to get the descriptions and illustrations of the plants published.

I will start in a few days for the Hoyt Plateau where I will work during the month of May and June. I hope that you have recovered from the cold that was troubling you on your visit to the University.

Yours truly
Lewis Fontaine

He is hoping to return to Fayetteville
and is now at the Southern
Institute Office at Atlanta. He has
N. Y. the Dennis.

I trust that you may have a pleasant
season of work in Florida & that you
may be enjoying your work.

My address will be Newfield N.J.

To Prof Fowler May 12. 1882

Dear Prof

Your letter of the 8th just has followed me from West —

It was a disappointment not to find you at the house as I wished ~~[illegible]~~ with the Smithsonian Mr. Mulsow to speak for you at the Lodge of your Mem. ~~[illegible]~~ Now in the hands of Prof. Powell for publication. ~~[illegible]~~ In reply to my enquiry regarding the tablet he said that ~~[illegible]~~ had been sent to the hands of the engraver & that then and the descriptive text would be ~~[illegible]~~ be brought out as early as compatible with the work involved — ~~[illegible]~~ Portion of the text of a general & specialist character he was desirous to publish —

I have not seen the ~~[illegible]~~ manuscript — but I take for granted that ~~[illegible]~~ are chiefly intended in the production of the Plates and descriptive text, & I rest and so to telephone.

New York State Museum of Natural History,

marked pers. only

Albany, May 9th 1882

My dear Prof Rogers

I have making an effort with our Legislature to complete my work on the Rel. N.Y. - I send you a copy of my Memorial made a month ago but delayed in printing -

I had asked Dr Hunt to speak to you at the meeting of the National Academy in Washington - but I have not heard a word from him since the meeting -

I shall feel greatly obliged if you will write a letter giving your views of the New York Palæontology, of its scientific and practical importance - Many of our Legislators want to know of what practical importance the work maybe - The

~~the~~ desirableness of completing the publication — its importance as a part of the Natural History of New York, and the extreme undesirableness of leaving a work of this kind half finished. I need hardly suggest — for you will know better than I do what I may do as a State Legislature —

The matter is referred to the Senate Committee on Public Printing, the Chairman is Hon. Addison P. Jones.

Please enclose your letter to my address and I will see that it is above in the proper hands.

I hope you are in good health, as also the Regents to whom please present my sincere regards and believe me

Very kindly Yours
James Hall

To Hon. Addison P. Jones
Ch. Senate Committee on Public Printing — Albany N.Y.

Dear Sir

My dear Sir
The great value ~~of the~~ of ~~especially~~ the admirable ~~publication~~ volumes of your State Geologist on the Paleontology of New York, I trust for sufficient ~~being~~ ~~reason~~ ~~to be~~ my to express the earnest wish that his ~~work may~~ further ~~provided for the means of~~ of his ~~research, further research~~ ~~for this~~ object may be provided for & that there may be no hindrance to the completion of ~~the~~ work — from which the ~~State~~ State has ~~shown~~ ~~so much benefit & will~~ proved so useful to the State & honorable to American Science.

I need not be afraid to say of Prof. Hall's labours in this dep^t of Natural Hist^y — that his volumes on the Pal. of N.Y. ~~are the~~ constitute the authority ~~in the~~ on the branch of Nat. Pal. to which they relate, & ~~he~~ they will rank with the very highest

work on the kindred subject which has been put a limit.

So as I learn that Prof. Hall has the material, and one or more editors between him and the printer — and as it would be difficult if not impossible to carry on the great work on which he has been so long engaged (to completion) under any other supervision than his, it would be an ~~other~~ other waste of opportunity & a most false economy, to discontinue or even to further delay the prosecution & publication of his work to its proper completion —

The Zoology of N.Y. includes one of the most complete ~~zoological~~ records — ~~and its~~ interpretation under the direction of Prof. Hall ~~has been~~ ~~awaited by the publication has been~~ ~~long & by the State~~ ~~but~~ being eminently proper to the consideration by whose bounty his work has been carried to its present completion

Philadelphia May 10. 1882

To Sec^y Chandler.

Dear Sir

My friend Commissioner Loring has kindly informed you of my wish to speak with you on the question of the Superintendancy of the National Observatory lately made vacant by the lamented death of Admiral Rodgers & having failed in my efforts while in Wash^ton to see you, I take the liberty of writing briefly to you on the subject.

While I am not officially authorized to express the opinion of others, I believe that I represent the judgement & wishes of the men of Science Abroad as well as in this country in saying that the position is worthy of & claims the highest Astronomical genius knowledge & reputation which is within our reach. The success of the Observatory under the administration of the late Superintendant, as is well known, has been largely due to the very exceptional personal

qualities, which this admirable Officer & Man brought into efficient & harmonious action the ability & of the Scientific staff by which the work of the Observa-tory was carried on. Could another Officer of like comprehensive mind & commanding character be found it would, I think, be admitted that the scientific interests of the Observatory would be secure.

Such a union of personal including the wisdom of years & the cannot it is feared be again secured & nothing short of this could I think compensate for on the part of the Superintendant of the Observatory of the highest scientific attainments & distinction.

If then the choise of a Superintendant is to be grounded, as I think it should be, largely on scientific qualifications I feel that the country is very fortunate in being able at this time to offer two such names for your consideration as Prof. Asaph Hall of the Observatory & Prof. Simon Newcomb the Superintendant of the Nautical Almanac. They are both high on the list of the worlds great Astronomers & would either of them be welcomed to the Superintendancy of our National Observatory by the hearty acclaim of the scientific men of all countries.

As to their administrative qualities I am unable to speak, both of them have been & Prof. Hall still continues to be practically connected with the duties of the Observatory, where he has been a daily wise councellor of the Superintendant & an honored leader in its scientific work.

I may add that the interests of the observatory as connected with the building & organization on the new site will call for the constant thought & supervision of an experienced Astronomer having full knowledge of what is needed for its best equipment & a familiar acquaintance with Observatories Elsewhere.

You will, I know, appreciate the deep interest which I feel in connection with our scientific men in whatever concerns the success & renown of our National Observatory & will thus excuse me for troubling you on the subject.

If I can be of further service in connection with your inquiries on this subject I shall be happy to be called upon by you.

Your obt. servant

William B. Rogers.

Prest. Nat: Acad. of Scienc.

Dear Sir Fr. Sect. Chandler. Cont. Hotel. May 10 - 1882.

My friend Commander Sumner has kindly informed you of my desire to speak to you on the subject of ~~filling the office of~~ Supt. of the Nat. Observ. lately made vacant by the death of Admiral Rodgers, and I have found in my effort, while in Washington to see you. I take the liberty of ~~that~~ writing briefly to you on the subject.

While I do not officiously intermeddle or refute the opinions of others, I believe that I fairly represent the feelings & wishes of the Men of Science about us here in this Country in saying that the ~~Position~~ Director G. ~~of the Observatory~~ is worthy of & claims the highest ~~Scientific~~ Astronomical Government Service & reputation which is within the Land. The Secretary of the Observatory under the administration of the late Superintendent, has been large due to the very unfortunate personal difficulties ~~with the Superintendent~~ in administrative Officers & most, brought on the Non-efficient & harmonious relations the activity & respectability of the Scientific Staff which the Country look to the Observatory to carry on. Coming another officer of the competent mind & commanding character be found, ~~the officers required to conduct the Scientific duties of the Observatory would be satisfactorily secure~~. ~~While~~ such a removal would be a great ~~Scandal~~ including the loss of years & the great work we have carried on & planned to be again secured & with, short time, could I think, compensate for the decline ~~of the~~ in the efficiency of the Observ. of the ~~first order~~ of the ~~have~~ Scientific attainments & activity.

~~Under the circumstances~~

26 Nov

~~Sir~~ I the choice of a Superintendent is the ground as I think it should be leaving an Scientific question. I fear that the Country is very fortunate in being able at this time to offer two such names for your consideration as Prof. Asaph Hall of the Observatory & Prof. Simon Newcomb the Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac. They are both as you know high on the list of the world's great astronomers, and by their health & character & the way in which he declined to the Superintendency of our National Observatory by the Secy. accepted from of the Smithsonian Regents are able Corporation.

As to their practical qualifications I am unable to speak - both of them have been & Prof. Hall still continues to be practically connected with the ~~Observatory~~ of the Observatory - where he has been on duty daily under Commission of the Superintendent, & an honored leader in its Scientific work.

I venture to hope that the interests of the Observatory in connection with the building & appointments on the new site will call for the constant thought & supervision of an experienced Astronomer fully knowing what is needed for the best equipment & the familiar acquaintance with observations & observatories elsewhere.

You will I know appreciate the difficult position I feel in carrying out the duties of our Scientific men in whatever concerns the dignity & honor of our National Observatory & will excuse me for thus troubling you on this subject. ~~Should the time come I shall be glad to do the suggesting of the name of the Nat. Obs. as the long the Superintendent. Hoping that it may be confirmed to advance.~~ I shall be ~~glad if I can be of further service in this matter~~ ~~grateful for any counsel or direction you may give~~ I shall be happy to be called upon by you

Yours very truly
Yours &c
J. B. D. Pres't N.A.S.

Phila. May 11, 1882

Dear Prof.

Your letter of the 8th inst: addressed to Wash.ton, reached me here last night.

Returning to Wash: from a tour in Pa: late on Friday I met the sad news of the death of my noble friend Adm.l Rodgers & decided to pause in Wash: to attend the funeral & to learn what I could about the probable succession.

The Navy will I am sure urge the appointment as here-to-fore of one of the line Officers & it is most probable that they will succeed. Could they furnish such a very exceptional chief as the late Superintendent the interests of the Observatory & of Science would be in safe hands. But this I fear is out of the question & I have urged thro' an official friend, the importance of improving the present opportunity, to make the Superintendancy a purely scientific position

quite irrespective of Navy or Army Service.

I passed nearly the whole of last Monday in attempts to see the Sect^y of the Navy, at his office & at his house, but did not succeed.

On leaving Tuesday morn^g I requested my friend to call on the Sec^y for the purpose of telling him of the object of my visits & I yesterday heard from him that the Sec^y would be pleased to receive a letter from me on the subject. I thereupon wrote to Sec^y Chandler very earnestly to the purport above mentioned, calling his attention to the two great astronomers ready at hand, Newcomb & Hale, from whom to make his choice. This letter he rec^d either last night or this morn^g. Should the Sec^y adopt the policy I have urged I take for granted that either Newcomb or Hale will receive the appointment. As to the choice between them the suffrages of scientific men would I think in Washington be divided. The letters in favor of Newcomb of wh. you speak are very strong & fully deserved. I have through Mrs Newcomb confidentially seen them & think that the bd. do well to have them laid before the Sec^y.

The Academy as a body should not I think take part in this matter and indeed it would not be unanimous in its action as I learned in Wash: But individual members as well as other scientific men should use their best influence to secure a distinguished scientific head for the Observatory now & for the future, whether it be Newcomb or Hale or some other distinguished American Astronomer.

We shall remain in Phil^a to the end of this week & hoping meanwhile to see you

I am yours faithfully

W B Rogers

Prof^r G. F. Barker.

Lt. Col. G. F. Barber
May 11. 1882.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1882.

My Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 10th, relative to the appointment to the Superintendency of the Naval Observatory. Dr. Loring has also visited me on the subject.

All your suggestions shall

have due consideration, and the whole subject shall be carefully canvassed before the final decision.

Very truly yours,

W. E. Chandler

Wm. B. Rogers, Esq.

X

Boston, May 15, 1882.

President W. B. Rogers.

Dear Sir:—

My friends hope to give me an opportunity to make a beginning in a banking-house, and wish to show that my past record is good.

I hope I am not presuming upon your acquaintance with me in asking you for a letter testifying to my having steadily and honestly done my work during my four years' course at the Institute. If you feel that you can do this, it will be a help to me.

I am
Yours sincerely
Frederic R. Loring

8 Greenwich Park
Boston.

Boston May 16. 1882.

My dear Prof.

The inclosed letter from Prof. Peters was submitted to the Council of the N. A. S. during the early session of the Academy. I was requested by the Council to refer it to the board of directors of the Bache Fund of which you are the Chairman. I understood the Council as approving Prof. Peters' application, but leaving to your Board the question of making the needed appropriation. I do not know who beside yourself are members of the Board or what amount of money will be required.

I am writing to Prof. Coffin in regard to the former question & of course Prof. Peters will

inform you as to the latter.

We had a good meeting of the Academy in Washington last month & we expect as full a one in N. Y. next Nov.:

Will you not my dear Prof. give us the pleasure of having you with us then?

It would delight none of your old friends more than yours faithfully

William B. Rogers.

National Museum
Washington D.C.
May 18th 1882

My dear Sir

It affords me much pleasure to return the $50. you so kindly lent me. I only received the money from Comm. Loring yesterday afternoon

Very respectfully Your
J. King Goodrich

Prof. Wm B. Rogers
117 Marlborough St.
Boston Mass

New Haven, May 19, '82

My dear Prof. Rogers

I received your letter yesterday with the communication of Prof. Peters & sent the whole with a letter of approval to Mr Hilgard at Washington for another of our Trustees. I can not say certainly whether such an expenditure comes rightly from the fund, but think it does, and I submitted the matter to Mr Hilgard, from whom I shall soon hear.

I wish I could attend the meetings of the Academy. Sadly. — I am glad

that you can.

Sincerely yours
James D. Dana

Wm. B. Rogers
President of the National
Academy of Sciences

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY.

Boston, May 24 1882

My dear Professor Rogers

President Walker,

who is spending a day in Washington, asked me to enquire whether you felt any doubt as to your being able to give a short address on Graduation Day. He says it would be too late he thinks to get a substitute and he is very anxious to have you come if possible

Very Sincerely Yrs
Robert H. Richards

New Haven Conn.
May 28th 1882

My Dear Prof. Rogers,

I have hoped to have been in Boston before this, and asked you further what you wished me to do relative to having a more full notice of Mr. Gabb, for the Academy, than your short but appreciative paper furnished.

Mr. Gabb began his field work in the Geological Survey of California during my connection with it — after much thought and inquiry Prof. Whitney chose him sometime in 1861

It came to California in the rolling winter, and when my party took the piles in the spring of 1862 he went with it - and he was with me much during the next three summers, in the winters we were at the rooms of the survey in San Francisco. I followed his career after we separated, and last saw him during the summer of 1876. Whitney at one time proposed to publish a little memoir of him, but it was never done - his intimate friend Dr Horace of Phila. owned more much about him.

Now, do you wish me to get such facts as I can for you to make ~~your~~ your paper fuller?, or write a second paper additional to yours?, or take yours and add to it such data as I can and which I think should be preserved, many but are, but that a fuller and very paper? - either of the three methods would give me pleasure.

Please drop me a note at your leisure - meanwhile I hope to be in Boston sometime in June & will try and see you.

Prof. Sullivan has lately returned from Washington and I have been informed at

at the account of his interview with Mr Loring. The latter is evidently very much disgruntled over the Sorghum matter - the fact is, I am very much surprised at his attitude in the whole matter. It is thoroughly discreditable, I had a pleasant conference with him when in Washington, and was surprised at his position, even for that department, which has been so long the butt of ridicule. Whatever may be the outcome of the Sorghum ~~experiment~~ culture question whether it prove successful or not his position is equally unpleasant, in either case - and will be a prime cause of further criticism of that much criticised Department.

Yours truly

Wm H Brewer

MASS. INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
BOSTON, MASS.

archives

FORWARDED

1882

Prof. Wm B Rogers,
~~117 Mattoon St~~
Boston

Freeman
Executor

BOSTON
MAY
9 AM
1882
M

Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

GRADUATION DAY.

May 30, 1882.

You are respectfully invited to be present at the Graduating Exercises to be held in the Hall of the Institute,—Huntington Hall,—on the 30th inst., beginning at 11 A. M.

FRANCIS A. WALKER,
President.

For the Corporation and Faculty,
and the Class of 1882.

3909 Locust St.
Philadelphia.

May 31st 1882.

My dear Mrs. Rogers:-

Will you allow me to say how terribly shocked and stunned we are at the sad news which reached us by telegraph this morning. And will you allow us to offer you our most heartfelt sympathy in this hour of anguish. Only yesterday did I re-

ceive Mr. Rogers' cordial letter from Newport. Today I learn he has passed from earth. Had my own father been called away I could not mourn more sincerely. My admiration for him as an eminent scientific scholar mingles with my love for him as a man. And now especially, does a desire to be like him, a desire I have often expressed, rise upon my lips. May He who doeth all things well sustain you under this heavy stroke. Very sincerely,

George F. Barker.

May 31 1882

Dear Mrs Rogers

Permit me, in behalf of Mrs Bowditch and myself, to express to you our warm sympathy in the sudden death of your husband.

He was a man wholly unique in this community; and I, with others, have always had for him combined feelings of affection & respect. His usual appearance, and

gracious smile with us. If he had anything to say, at our scientific meetings, we were sure that the ideas would be good and clothed in exactly appropriate language. Indeed, there is none, at present, capable of taking his place - Such a combination of fine qualities are rarely vouchsafed to any man.

May that sweet peace that comes even from the memory of one so much respected & loved be ever with you and give you support

This world is made more beautiful and rich by the existence of such a character

I remain very truly yours

Henry I. Bowditch

Mrs W. B. Rogers

To Mr. M. Denman Ross,

Cambridge, June 1, 1882.

My Dear Sir:

You were pleased to express a desire that I should furnish you, in a written form, a personal reminiscence stated to you in conversation, of the late lamented W. B. Rogers, so long the president of the Institute of Technology with which you are connected. I comply with your request because I feel that no tribute, however slight, should be withheld from one who was so bright an ornament of American science, and, in his department of education, so great a benefactor to our community. His latest work, as an educator, may lead us to overlook his splendid service to science in explaining the most complicated phenomena in American geology as well as the grandest feature in the conformation of the eastern portion of our continent, by the

elucidation of the physical structure of the Appalachian chain. My reminiscences refer solely to the latter work.

In April, 1842, I enjoyed the privilege of attending, as one of the youngest members, the meeting of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists, held in the city of Boston, at the rooms of the Boston Society of Natural History. This Association was remarkable from the circumstance that nearly all its members were practical geologists, actually engaged in conducting the geological survey then in progress in the different states. The discussions were of the gravest character and of profound interest; as all were seekers of instruction from each other, for guidance in conducting the surveys and compiling the reports. The meeting in Boston, as compared with three others which I attended

departure, was a particularly brilliant one. Its president was Dr. Morton of Philadelphia, so distinguished for his researches in anthropology. Its appointed orator was the venerable Prof. Silliman, the father of American geology. Not less distinguished among the associate members present were the admirable State Geologist of Massachusetts, Prof. Hitchcock; the almost inspired observer of natural phenomena, our own Dr. Charles T. Jackson; Emmons of New Jersey, the expositor of the Taconic system; the brilliant French astronomer, Nicollet; the mineralogist, Beck; the palæontologist, Hall; the microscopist, Bailey; the goölogist, Gould; the philologist, as well as naturalist, Haldeman; the eminent merchant and promoter of New England industries, as well as patron of science, Nathan Appleton, to whose munificence is due the publication of the proceedings

of the Association; and the brothers William B. and Henry D. Rogers, the former, the elder, and then the State Geologist of Virginia, and the latter, of Pennsylvania, and each a representative as professor of the principal university in the respective states. To complete this brilliant circle, Sir Charles, then Mr., Lyell, the recognized head of English geology, was present, an interested listener and active participant in the debates. Notwithstanding the able address of Prof. Silliman, the elaborate paper of Prof. Hitchcock, and the frequent and interesting remarks of Mr. Lyell, the marked feature of this meeting which continued for a week, was the reading of a joint paper by the brothers Rogers, upon the physical structure of the Appalachian chain, as exemplifying the laws which have regulated the elevation of great mountain chains

generally. The expression, "reading a paper", conveys a most inadequate idea of what was a remarkable oratorical effort. The brothers, William B. and Henry D. Rogers, who must always be associated together, as there was an absolute unity of effort in the great work of their lives, their geological observations and deductions — had been, for several years, studying, respectively different sections of the same great geological field, the Appalachian Chain, the one in Virginia and the other in Pennsylvania. With the natural desire of the representatives of the South, to make a favorable impression on the occasion of their first appearance in New England, they selected the meeting in Boston for giving the grand results of their labors in the peculiar field of American geology which it had fallen to them first to explore.

A grander geological theme could hardly be imagined. It related to the physical structure of a mountain chain 1300 miles in total length, extending from Vermont to Alabama, and 100 miles in its greatest breadth, consisting of beds of silurian, devonian and carboniferous formations (adopting terms applied to similar formations in England) arranged in elevated parallel and narrow ridges, sometimes 100 miles in length, but with strata so folded, warped contorted fractured and eroded that science had sought in vain to find a key to their original structure. Yet the genius of the brothers Rogers had, like the Egyptologist with the papyrus roll, unfolded the inverted and contorted strata, spread and smoothed them out, as it were, in an open book and showed them to the eye of science, as originally horizontal

deposits continuous with the rocks of the great western coal fields. But I can hardly even glance at the scientific conclusions of this paper, as my simple object is, to describe the manner of its delivery and the impression it made upon its hearers.

The brothers, by their happy and amiable faculty of thinking and working in concert, more than duplicated their individual power. In making their joint exposition for the "paper" as delivered was purely an oral statement — William B. Rogers took upon himself the more modest but really more difficult part of describing the phenomena, leaving to his brother the part of explaining the theory of the phenomena. Nothing could be more pleasing than the working together of these two minds toward the same end. Both were in the heyday of manhood with the enthusiasm of youth and the

favor of their section still unabated. Their ambition, it is true, was hardly concealed; but it was an ambition which produces noble efforts. Those who know the elegance of diction and manner which characterized the later addresses of the elder Rogers, can partially conceive of the effect he produced by the fluent and graceful oral statement of the complicated phenomena of this hitherto mysterious mountain chain — a statement in which there was not one moment of hesitancy, not a word which was not the most fitting. But they cannot conceive of the delight which was given to the admiring hearers by the restoration of these disturbed formations to their primitive symmetry and by the revelation of the laws of structure which determined the coal.

-formation of the vast and singular mountain range.

This paper, or what purports to be the same, is published in the transactions of the Association. I have frequently read it since. To me it is now comparatively tame in expression. It lacks the inspiration of the scene and the men, the illustrative diagrams, the emphasis of voice and finger pointing out the distinguishing phenomena, and the fervor of spontaneous utterance. The impression I have of this exposition as delivered, is, that next to the Phi Beta Kappa oration of Wendell Phillips at Harvard, it was the most lucid and elegant effort of oral statement to which I ever listened. It may be true that eloquence is but a secondary quality in the philosopher; but in respect to

the matter of this memoir and the general researches and deductions of the brothers Rogers, here named, in this peculiar field of exploration, it may be safely asserted that they have made the most original and brilliant generalizations recorded in the annals of American geology, and have thrown light upon the structure of mountain chains generally, which entitles them to a place by the side of the great expositor of this subject; Eli de Beaumont of France. Add to this honor which is shared by another, that which is due to William B. Rogers alone, for his labors in your Institute of Technology which he created, and his position as head of the National Academy of Science; and may we not say that he completes the triad of

the illustrious men of New England.—
poet, philosopher and man of science.—
whose death has made this year
memorable?

Yours truly
John L. Hayes.

copy.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON.

June 4. 1882.

Dear Mrs. Rogers

You can well imagine with what a shock the news of our dear Professor's death, fell upon us, and how we grieve over it. To me for years he has been more a beloved relative than merely a friend and acquaintance, and the knowledge that no longer can I expect to meet him, and appreciate his lively interest in all that concerns the progress of Science, and in the beautiful work we are carrying on, is very distressing. One of the great inducements to make a sojourn in Newport during our Summer movements was the opportunity of seeing him.

and the principal charm of the meetings of the National Academy was the constant intercourse with him.

Since Professor Henry's death no break in the ranks of old friends has been so serious and severe; and I mourn as for one whose place can never be supplied.

Mrs. Baird was quite ill when the news came, and although we broke it to her as gently as we could, her regret at the loss, and her sympathy for you had for a time a serious effect upon her. She is better but still feeble, and sends her warmest love, in which we all join.

Affectionately yours

Spencer F. Baird

Mrs. Wm. B. Rogers

Newport R.I.

June

Dear Mrs. Rogers:

I trust I am not intruding upon you too soon in offering my expressions of sympathy in view of the loss which you have experienced. I say sympathy, and I think I can use the word properly because no one who ever had the privilege of being a pupil of Professor Rogers could afterwards fail to feel that there existed some tie of relationship, — and you know how he used to call us his "boys".

I feel that I have owed a great deal to Professor Rogers as a teacher, and subsequently for the kind interest he always took in my progress, — and I have special reason to feel his loss in thinking of his kindness during my recent sickness (in which I do not by any means forget your own share).

I am very thankful that it was permitted me to grasp his hand and to hear even a few words on that Tuesday morning, and I can assure you that the shock was very great to me when I heard the sad news. The shock was great, but now I think of him with strength renewed and with the fire which still burned brightly when I first came under his influence. When I think of his love for the truth and for imparting it to others, and of the long vistas of truth now open before him, I wonder whether it may perchance be some time given to us who were once ~~again~~ his pupils here, to follow him again in acquiring wisdom with which there shall be no longer place for hypotheses and theories.

In beginning you to accept my sincere sympathy in the loss which we cannot help feeling deeply, I am joined by Mrs. Nichols. She long ago learned through me to honor and love Professor Hopkins and, of course, she could not but be grateful to him and to yourself for your kindness since I have been sick.

I am,
With great respect,
Yours sincerely,
Wm Ripley Nichols

Round Hill House,
Northampton, Mass.,
June, 1882.

Cambridge
June 5, 1882

Dear friend

My first thought was "What an enviable ending!" Then my wife suggested that perhaps you were away at Newport, & that that would be even harder than being on the spot. At any rate, accept our warm sympathy. Do not think of answering this.

Cordially and affectionately

Thos. Wentworth Higginson

June 9. 1882.

Dear Dr. Gibbs

I find Sec^y Raum's letter & Mr Rogers' reply among late Academy papers, not filed away, which leads me to judge that the Committee on the examination of Glucose was not formed.

As all notes & papers were brought to Newport I am quite sure that there is no correspondence on this subject later than the Sec^y letter Apr 29 & the reply Apr. 30

Yours truly

E. R

Newport.

University of Virginia
June 10. 1882

My dear Mrs. Rogers

Receiving a few days ago a copy of the Boston Journal of June 3d with the Newport post mark, I have assumed that you knowing my veneration and affection for your dear husband have done me the favour to remember me in this connection, and it has emboldened to take this method of assuring you of my profound & affectionate sympathy in the loss which has fallen so heavily upon you.

You have the consolation of knowing that your tender & affectionate care of him had prolonged his life and his career of usefulness to an honoured old age and that

a whole continent feels the loss
as one common to all who
knew his worth.

No language could adequately
express my sense of obligation to
him for the kind & gentle manner
which he encouraged me in the
early trials of my professional life
and both by precept & example
pointed out the duties of one
undertaking the responsible task
of an instructor of youth.

That the richest blessings of
Heaven may be yours is the earnest
prayer of

Yours most sincerely
J. L. Cabell

Boston Jany 2 1882

My Dear Mrs Rogers

I have your check for one hundred dollars for Phonographs for which in behalf of the Institute I thank you.

The favor you refer to placed you under no obligation to me. It will never be otherwise than a pleasure to do any thing in my power for those my dear Friend has left behind.

I never saw the man I loved as I loved him.

I am most truly yours

John Cummings

(Following with Christ's love are the
children's way.)

Been with him glory on the
transfigured face.

Dear Lord, O Christ! we feel that
there are more-

The glorious of the Christ's Kingdom here!

The real ~~that~~ been no more Heavenly
transfigured life,

Great in form, been a consecrated State.

The heart kept young while here,

by love of Christ,

then found the fountain of eternal youth.

Our hope, that Christ, in the vacant place

Point to the upward path with radiant
face!

Dear Heavenly-minded-glory penetrate the light
of the other Heaven that to all those
in surely!

C. E. B.

W. B. R.

[Read to the Club, July 25, 1882]

How shall thy eulogy, fair Soul! be sung
Without the gift of thine own silvery tongue?
How shall our words the pure ideal reach,
Without the grace of thy harmonious speech?
Transparent as thy soul the glass should be,
To image what our hearts retain of thee!
A crystal stream of utterance like thine own
Could show thy spirit's form — so that alone.
And art thou not still speaking from above
In tones, might well all earthly speech reprove?
How heavenly was thy presence with us here!
Thou art gone up to a congenial sphere.
Now, in the light of the All-Father's face,
The laws which here 'twas thy delight to trace,

Chestnut Hill.
August 7th 1882.

My dear Mrs. Rogers.

I fear you may feel surprised that I have not sent you a line since you returned to Newport, but, to tell you the simple truth, though you have been constantly in my thoughts - I have not dared to write you. The event has been too recent - the subject too sacred for me even to allude to, and I could not write without alluding to it. It was so sudden - so unlooked for - that I was overwhelmed by it - dazed as if it were by a blow on

the head. He was my best friend. My loss is great. I miss him more & more. I admired him for his scientific attainments, his clear and commanding intellect, his breadth of thought & wonderful power of illustration & expression,— but I esteemed & loved him for his unsurpassed gentleness, kindness, simplicity, modesty, fidelity & truthfulness:— for his wholly pure & noble character. And, though I grieve, I yet thank God I have been permitted to call him my friend!

But if my loss is great — what, my dear Madam, must be yours? I know something of sorrow,— but I cannot attempt to guage your sorrow. I can only say, God in his mercy sustain & help you! for He alone, & the thoughts & feelings resting on Him can do so. Allow me to say, however, that your sound judgment, tender care & constant watchfulness of the dear departed were the wonder & admiration of all your friends — and, in my judgment, preserved his life for many years: and the consciousness of love & duty thus fulfilled will I trust, when time permits the mind to dwell upon them, serve to mitigate sorrow even as great as yours.

And to this may be joined the thought of having been united in Marriage for so many years to one who, in the opinion of all who knew him, was great & good above most of his fellows.

We are pleasantly situated here & find everything comfortable & quiet. Annette is pretty busy in sketching & desires me to send you her best love.

With great regard,
believe me yours sincerely,
Henry B. Rogers.

Mrs. Wm. B. Rogers.

Copy.

Letter sent.

Gibbs Hill: Newport
Aug: 26. 1882.

My dear Prof. Rumble

When in Virginia last Spring Mr Rogers learned that, some years ago, Prof. Hitchcock made a tracing of Mr Rogers' large colored Geological map of Virginia, which was then at the Institute.

Will you please to inform me, as nearly as you can recall the time (or year) when Prof. Hitchcock made this tracing, & also as to the detail with which he did it; &

likewise the object which the Prof. mentioned he had in wishing to obtain the tracing. x x x x x x x x

Believe me as ever
Yours sincerely
Emma Rogers.

Brookline, Aug 28 1882

Dear Mrs Rogers.

I know the fact that Prof Hitchcock copied Prof Rogers' map — but supposes that it was done with Prof Rogers' consent, I did not charge my mind with the matter. My recollection is that Prof H was preparing a Geological Atlas of the U. S. — but do not know whether the work was ever published — I take it for granted that Prof Rs map was carefully reproduced — I am not certain about the date — but think it was while Prof Rockwell was still in charge of the department, & if so he can

give you the facts much better than I can—
Our baby Eleanor is well & growing—& so is the boy born July 31—a splendid fellow.

Mrs R was never so well after the birth of any of her children, & joins me in kind regards.

Very truly yours
J. D. Rockefeller

Packer Institute,
Brooklyn, N.Y. Oct 23, 1882.

Dear Madam:

I trust you will pardon the liberty I take, as an entire stranger though once presented at a reception in Boston, in sending the accompanying pamphlet embodying part of an investigation in Physiological Optics which has occupied many of my leisure hours during the last eighteen months.

I read with exceeding interest the admirable papers on Binocular Vision written by Prof Rogers twenty five years ago. Among the last of his observations on this

subject were some on the Binocular Union of Spectral Images, involving considerations of much importance in relation to the theory of vision, but requiring on the part of the experimenter more than usual skill in the use of the eyes. Probably on this latter account no one seems to have repeated Prof Rogers' experiments, until quite recently, when in June and July last I undertook the work.

The result has been a perfect confirmation of his conclusions, and an extension of the investigation in such manner as to remove the last possible doubt of what he had observed. My friend, Prof O. N. Rood, of Columbia College, advised me to publish my experiments, even although anticipated in some of them by Prof Rogers, as I am the first to test his work in this special department. I have therefore done so, in the American Journal of Science, and in the London Philosophical Magazine.

Prof Rood also encourages me to believe that you will be pleased to receive this slight testimonial of my respect and admiration for your husband.

Believe me, Dear Madam,

Very Respectfully Yours

W. Le Conte Stevens.

Mrs Wm B. Rogers,

Boston, Mass.

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Cambridge Nov 21st /80

Dear Mr Rogers

I have had conferences with Mr Agassiz and Prof Marsh in regard to the Museum and we finally decided that Gen Walker would be the best person if perfectly suited. I do not know how the smaller planets at present but Marsh thought he ~~had~~ could very easily prove peculiarities in Gen Walker's mind as to his over flinch to do Mr Rogers full justice as a man of science. You will have heard

before this reaches you of the death of Prof. Henry Draper. He gave the Academy a splendid dinner on Wednesday evening last; was taken ill with pleuro-pneumonia that night and died on Sunday evening.

We are settled in the house which we occupied when we first moved to Cambridge 19 years ago. Here seems pretty well but I find that we have all become confirmed Newfoundlers.

Very truly Yours

Wolcott Gibbs

Wolcott Gibbs

[ca. 1882]

I attended the Classes of Prof. Wm B. Rogers at William and Mary College Virginia during the Sessions of 1832-3 and 1833-4. The Faculty, though small in numbers, was strong in ability; for it was composed of the Rev. Adam Empie, President, Wm B. Rogers, Thos. R. Dew, Robt. Saunders and Dabney Browne. Of these the most distinguished was Prof. Rogers. Young as he was, he had already attained a great reputation as a man of science, and most ably did he fill three chairs at the same time. These were those of Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry. His methods of demonstration in his Mathematical lecture-room were very clear. The same may be said of his course of Natural Philosophy, which he made exceedingly interesting. In both these Classes he was able to

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make the principles of these sciences easily understood by all who wished to study. His Class of Chemistry, however, was the one in which his peculiar talents were the most conspicuous. In addional to the clearness of his expositions of his subject, he was the finest experimenter I ever saw: I cannot remember his ~~one~~ having failed even once while I attended his lectures. He often burst forth in such strains of eloquence as I have never heard from the mouth of any other human being. He was especially grand when his theme was the benefits to result to humanity from the cultivation of science. The glance of his eye reached far into the future of Chemistry, and as an instance of his prophetic genius, I well remember a wonder lecture he delivered in 1834, when he showed that hydrogen was probably a metal — the realization of which hypothesis he lived to see accomplished.

Professor Rogers was in 18 elected to the Chair of Natural Philosophy at the University of Virginia, and he filled that position with an ability fully commensurate with his great

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reputation. During his occupation of the Chair of N. Philosophy he instituted his Classes of Geology and Mineralogy. These were not embraced in the academic curriculum necessary for a Degree; but such was his fame, and such his well-known eminence in these sciences, that the Classes became very popular, continuing to increase in numbers till Prof. Rogers removed from Virginia to Massachusetts.

The fascination of the lectures of the Great Professor was indeed wonderful. The perspicuity of his language was extraordinary, and his memory of facts ~~was~~ seemed to be inexhaustible. He could call these forth and arrange them in their proper order apparently without an effort. His literary attainments were of a very high order, in the languages of antiquity as well as in the living tongues, ~~His temper-ament~~ and he always kept abreast of the literature of the day. His temperament was also highly poetical, and his imagination glowed with beautiful and lofty images suited to this subject. He ~~seemed to be endowed~~ possessed the logical clearness of Calhoun combined with the eloquence of Webster. Such power both of convincing and

[ca. 1882]

~~and~~ delighting we have never known to be possessed by one man. I can well conceive of the effect produced by him in the World's Scientific Association that met in England in 18 . To America was assigned the honor of the Valedictory. ~~to the Association~~ — and of course Mr B. Rogers was chosen to deliver it. He carried the Association by storm, and when he had concluded, they declared that they had never heard such eloquence before.

As to the character of Professor Rogers, I can hardly do it justice. Great as was the admiration of all for the Professor and the Orator, greater still was their admiration for the man. He showed his noble nature in all that he said and did. He was always ready to help those who needed his assistance, which he gave in the wholesouled way that was so characteristic of him. He was ~~always~~ ever a fast friend to those he deemed worthy of his regard. Never did any of such among his old students apply to him for aid in advancing their

I was a Member of

[ca. 1882]

interests, that it was not freely ~~bes~~ bestowed. Moreover, his silent deeds of ~~chr~~ charity were very numerous. ~~He could~~ ~~point~~ could point to instances of his openhanded benevolence that came to his knowledge when a young man, but which the Professor thought were concealed from all. Especially was the warmhearted generosity of this good man felt after the Civil War, when so many of his old friends in Virginia found him still their friend in need. ~~I~~ I who write ~~it~~ this, can personally testify to many of his acts of generous kindness. ~~I~~ I have also heard of many others; for though William B. Rogers never spoke of his own good deeds, yet they could not in every case be concealed from the world.

The Good Man is no more. Long as was his life, it was too short for Science and for his friends. Few are now left in Virginia who were intimate with the Great Professor at William and Mary and the University; but with them his glorious memory will ever be enshrined until they are called to rejoin their dear old friend in a better world.