Albany N.Y.
Dec 24, 1891.

Dear Professor Marsh,

Your favor of December 12th should have been answered long since. The failure to do so did not spring from any want of appreciation of the high honor you propose to confer upon me.

With much distinct of my ability to perform the duties implied, in the way they should be performed, I accept the proposed appointment as a member of the Committee to award the medal established under the will of the late President Barnard and the trust accepted by the Academy.

Thanking you most cordially for the evidence of your valued consideration and with best wishes of the season, I have the honor to be very truly yours,

[Signature]

Professor O.C. Marsh

[Signature] LEO N BOREN
Dear Professor March,

An unusual pressure of correspondence superadded to pressure of work is the real cause of a confusion that resulted in my unfortunate delay in answering your much appreciated note.

From the enclosed copy of a petition which has been signed by about 30 of the leading astronomers of the Country and which will probably be presented to Congress immediately after the holiday recess, you will see that in the matter of proposed reorganization of the Naval Observatory, substantial progress has been made. I refer more particularly of course, to the extract from
the report of the Secretary of the Navy. There is much more of 
encouragement from which we 
hope for developments later.

Remembering the work in this 
matter by the Academy in 1885, 
I knew you would be interested 
in this movement which is an 
outgrowth of that.

Later we hope for petitions 
to the Committee having the bill 
in charge from all the leading 
Universities and Colleges of the 
Country. Very sincerely yours,

Leonard Bosy
A MEMORIAL.

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Your petitioners respectfully call attention to the question of the future administration of the New Naval Observatory—brought to official notice by the Honorable Secretary of the Navy in his current annual report—as one entitled to your careful consideration. The buildings for this establishment are now being completed on a scale and at an expense which, we believe, have never been equalled in the case of any national institution devoted to celestial research. The magnitude of the appropriations made by four successive Congresses for this purpose clearly expresses the popular will that the Astronomical Observatory of the nation should be second to none in the value and interest of its work.

We, therefore, respectfully set forth the fact that buildings and instruments are not the chief conditions of success. A well considered plan of work, pursued with zeal under competent scientific direction, is absolutely essential. A body of the ablest astronomers, thrown together without adequate guidance, without any problem to solve, and without a concerted plan of work, can no more achieve success than an army can march and fight without a general. All experience shows that the success or failure of a scientific as of a business institution depends upon its directing head.

By the labors of many generations of investigators, astronomy has now become a science of such extent that those only who make its cultivation the principal business of their lives can keep pace with its progress, and decide how the energies of a corps of astronomers should be directed.

The proper administration of the Observatory now being completed, therefore, requires that its direction be placed in the hands of a practical astronomer, and we respectfully ask for such legislation as will secure this end.
NAVAL OBSERVATORY.

"The work on the new Naval Observatory has advanced so far that the transfer from the old to the new site will shortly be undertaken. The failure of the contractors has delayed the work of the new building, now in its final stage, but the Government is amply protected, and arrangements are now making under the provisions of the contract by which its early completion may be assured.

"When the transfer and installation of the instruments are completed, the Government will be in possession of one of the most admirably equipped observatories in the world. The question of the proper administration of this important charge, representing one of the most important branches of scientific investigation undertaken by the Government, is one that demands early attention. The system in existence hitherto, by which the selection of the Superintendent has been confined to line officers of the Navy, subject like other officers to changes of duty at comparatively short intervals, prevents that continuity of administration which is essential in carrying on the work of a great national observatory. No programme of scientific investigation, especially in the department of astronomy, can be carried out successfully by any institution, if liable to frequent interruptions by a change of its administrative head.

"I therefore recommend the adoption of legislation which shall enable the President to appoint, at a sufficient salary, without restriction, from persons either within or outside of the naval service, the ablest and most accomplished astronomer who can be found for the position of Superintendent.

"I would also recommend, in view of the era of progress and scientific development upon which the Observatory is now entering, that an advisory council be organized, composed of the Superintendent of the Observatory and its senior professor, and of three other persons of scientific attainments, whose duty it shall be to consider and report upon new instruments and their proper installation; to draw up, with such changes as may be necessary, from time to time, the programme of scientific work, including observation, reduction, and publication, and to make such inspections and reports as may be desirable in regard to the character of the work done by the Observatory."

[OVER]
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 18, 1892.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Tracey introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To provide a more perfect organization for the United States Naval Observatory, and for other purposes.

1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

2. tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

3. That the United States Naval Observatory at Washington

4. shall hereafter be known as the United States National Ob-

5. servatory, and shall remain attached to the Navy Department

6. and under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy. The

7. said United States National Observatory shall be placed under

8. the superintendence of a practical astronomer of eminent

9. abilities and professional experience, who shall be styled the

10. Director of the United States National Observatory. The

11. said director shall be appointed by the President, by and with

12. the advice and consent of the Senate, and he shall receive a

13. compensation for his services of five thousand dollars per annum.

SEC. 2. That the President is hereby further authorized
to appoint a chief assistant, who shall be an astronomer prac-
tically experienced in the art of astronomical observations and
calculations, and shall perform such duties as may be assigned
to him by the aforesaid director of the United States National
Observatory; and the said chief assistant shall receive as com-
pensation for his services a salary of three thousand six hun-
dred dollars per annum. During a temporary vacancy in the
office of director the said chief assistant may act as director.

Sec. 3. That there shall be a board of visitors of the United
States National Observatory, to consist of the director and
chief assistant of the Observatory, as hereinbefore provided,
together with three additional persons of scientific attainments
and not otherwise in the employ of the Government, who shall
be appointed by the Secretary of the Navy. It shall be the
duty of the board of visitors to consider and report to the
Navy Department upon new instruments and their proper in-
stallation (to draw up, with such changes as may be neces-
sary, from time to time, the programme of scientific work,
including observation, reduction, and publication,) and to
make inspections and reports upon the character of the work
done by the Observatory at such time or times as the Secretary
of the Navy may prescribe. The said three additional and
advisory members of the board of visitors shall hold office
during the fiscal year for which they are appointed, or until
their successors shall qualify; they shall be paid no salary for
their services, but each of them shall receive compensation
for actual traveling expenses and an allowance not exceeding
ten dollars in lieu of quarters, subsistence, and all personal ex-
penses for each day while on duty away from his customary
place of residence upon the request of the Secretary of the
Navy, said sums to be paid out of the appropriation for the
United States National Observatory.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of the Navy is hereby au-

thorized, whenever he may deem it for the best interests of
the public service, to assign to the order of the director of
the United States National Observatory members of the corps
of professors of mathematics of the United States Navy who are
practical astronomers of skill and experience: Provided, That
the number of professors so assigned shall not exceed four at
any one time, and that no such assignments shall be made
from persons who may hereafter be appointed to the said corps
of professors of mathematics of the United States Navy.
A BILL

To provide a more perfect organization for the U. S. Naval Observatory, and for other purposes.

By Mr. Tracey.

January 18, 1892.—Read twice, referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, and ordered to be printed.
DUDLEY OBSERVATORY,
ALBANY, N. Y.

February 21, 1892.

Professor O. C. Marsh,

My dear Sir,

I notice that your name is not
figured in the memorial from Yale
College in favor of civilian scientific
control for the Government Observatory.
I have also heard a rumor since I
have been here in Washington, that
you disapprove my course in this
matter.

The bitterest opponents of our measure
are the men who cite the Geological
Surveys as their strongest argument
against our proposition. I mean our
opponents on the Committee of Naval
Affairs, before which we have had one
hearing. I do not myself see why Geologists,
meteorologists, or Astronomers should manage
the bureaus which have to do with this
class of work, as astronomers be excluded
from the management of the Observatory.
I don't see what the Geologists expect to
fear from governing the astronomers by others.

There are all sorts of false rumors
afford, promoted by a compact lobby, which are designed to impinge the motives of astronomers who are supporting this measure. Most unjust rumours of that kind have been circulated in regard to myself. I shall not enter upon this disgraceful and unprofitable task of defending myself against them to scientific men who ought to be able to judge whether they are likely to be well founded; I have too much else to do.

Astronomers, so far as I know, have not asked the support of scientific men generally, though such support might prove very helpful at this time. But this movement must ultimately succeed, and I do not believe that it will be allowed to rest until success has been achieved.

Yours Truly,

[Signature]
New Haven, Conn., February 26, 1892.

Dear Prof. Boss,

I duly received your letter of the 21st inst., and reply at my earliest convenience, as I see you misunderstand my position in regard to the matter in which you are so much interested.

I approve fully of the proposed change in the management of the Naval Observatory, and hope it will soon be accomplished. I did not sign the Yale petition for the best of reasons; namely, because, as president of the National Academy, I must remain in a perfectly judicial position, especially as I have been told that the Government may submit the question to the Academy, and I should then have to appoint a committee to consider it. To have publicly placed myself on record on one side of any question submitted by the Government to the Academy, as its scientific adviser, would be certainly very unwise, and would place the Academy in a false light. I have taken the same ground while I have been president, and I am sure you will see the wisdom of this course, both in the present and all similar cases.

I am surprised at what you say about the Geological Survey and the committee on naval affairs, and I should be glad to know more on this point.

Yours, very truly,

(Signed) O. C. Marsh.

Prof. Lewis Boss.
922 "O" Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.
March 8, 1892.

Dear Prof. Marsh:-

Thank you for your letter of February 26. Before receiving it I had begun to find out that your position in regard to the Naval Observatory measure had been misinterpreted. I have delayed writing in the hope of being able to give you some more definite information as to the position and prospects of our bill than I am yet able to give. I can say, however, that while a majority of the Committee on Naval affairs is evidently in favor of some change — or rather, is satisfied that the existing system of the Observatory is a bad one — it will probably not have the pointiness to
over ride the views of the Chairman. Unfortunately Messrs. Bouételle and Lodge are apparently in accord with the views of the Chairman. I do not despair of coming over Mr. Bouételle to our view. I have had some conversations with him which make me hopeful. His position is the peculiar and totally indefensible one that some executive ability is the thing most needed at the observatory, and supplementary to this that the independence of a commission in the Navy is the best safeguard against unfit appointments in the staff. As I suppose you know, he is an ex-naval officer; and I am informed that he is an intimate friend of the present superintendent of the Observatory, so that he is satiated with the naval view. At the same time he admits that the Observatory is in very bad shape. He said that it was very evident from the remark made by members of the Observancy, that the "hearing" that they did do much or very good work and that the staff was in a disorganized condition. His position is, therefore, so inconsistent that knowing what I do of his character, I am not without hope that he will be found on the right side in the end. As to Lodge, he is totally under naval influences, and this might easily have been inferred, perhaps, through his affiliations with the late Mr. Pakenham the son-in-law of the late Admiral Davis and the brother-in-law of Commander Davis. He too says that it is evident that the Observatory has been running down under naval officers for the last ten years or more—had he attributes this back to the bad selection of officers!

There are the three strong, positive members of the committee.

There is to be another hearing on this bill so that there is a chance,
as members of the committee have suggested to me, that our case will appear still stronger after the opponents of the bill have been heard.

It would not surprise me that if a strong assault upon the Geological Survey should be made by this Congress. In our “hearing” February 16, Mr. Herbert was most emphatic in his denunciation of the Geological Survey and its chief. The notes of the testimony were taken down by a very incompetent man and I see that much of the most vigorous language of Col. Herbert has been omitted. He rests his opposition to our measure on the administration of the Geological Survey, as a sample of what scientific men would do if they could get hold of the Observatory. He denounces the Geological Survey as a machine which is run by political methods through subsidizing the science of the country. He insists that by such methods the Survey has become too strong for restraint. He lays great stress on
the extravagance of the survey. If I remember correctly, he brought up one instance in which he charged that an enormously expensive volume had been printed to duplicate the second time under a new title. Unless I am greatly mistaken in my recollection he connected you by name with that alleged transaction. Professor Moremb may remember more accurately whether your name was brought in.

I am not at all informed on the administration of the Ecological Survey and could not reply to the structures of Col. Herbert. He also made a speech against the Coast Survey intimating that there was a combination between these two surveys.

I took up a good part of my valuable time in defending the Coast Survey as well as I could; but the Chairman denied the correctness of which I said, though he said finally that the Coast Survey "is not so bad as the Ecological Survey."
I did however remind the chairman that the great increase in the expenditures of the Geographical Survey from $106,000 to $700,000 per annum might be indicative of a sentiment of approval for the value of its work by Congress. I reminded him that the estimated cost of the survey were each year under the scrutiny of Committee of Congress, that they were subject to question and debate in Congress—and had been so questioned and debated—so that the very fact that the survey had borne on expanding under this fire of opposition was in my mind the strongest evidence that the people of the country approve and value the work of the survey. If the representatives of the people in Congress were not to be the judges of what it is proper to expend in support of a scientific department of government, then be must assume that there is something exceptional in the policy which ought to govern a scientific bureau.

In other words, it seemed to me that the reduction of the amount of the reasoning would be to stop the public business if any one bureau or department spends more money than Col. Herbert thinks proper.

The bill will be reported—not unanimously in committee—as I shall make a strong effort to have it passed. I think it will pass the Senate without any great difficulty.

I return to Albany tomorrow and should be glad to confer with you if you have any suggestions to make. In April I hope to confer with you in person at the Academy Meeting. I think the scientific men of the country should stand by the contention of astronomers in this matter, as far as that contention is proper.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
April 14, 1892.

Professor O.C. Marsh,
My dear Professor,

I am arranging for a hearing before the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs upon the Naval Observatory Bill, for Wednesday, April 20th. Senator Hale who is in charge of this matter, and friendly, has suggested that, in view of the adverse report in the House, it is important that the friends of the measure should come well prepared and produce the attendance of men of scientific weight. I hope you will consent to appear, if possible; and I will endeavor to make arrangements such that you can, with the least possible interference with the business of the Academy. I hope you will present your views which will be as valuable if they deal with questions of general policy as
Those which deal with details.

If scientific men will make a little showing before the Senate Committee I think there is still a chance of getting a proper bill through this Congress; for the bill has a great many Congressmen pledged to its support. I have spent a great deal of labor on this subject and upon the agitation, and as I have only the interest which all scientific men should feel I am not disposed to resist much more without a reasonable degree of cooperation.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
April 8, 1893.

Professor O. C. Marsh,
President of the
National Academy of Sciences:

My dear Sir:-

I hope that the Academy, at the
approximate April session, in considering
the place for its next succeeding session
in November, 1893, will look with favor
upon Albany.

You may be aware that we have
re-located the buildings of the Dudley
Observatory upon a much more favorable
site. The new buildings are now nearly
ready for occupancy, and in all human
probability the instruments will be installed
during the summer. You will remember
that our endowment has been increased
by a gift of $25,000 from Miss Catherine
W. Bruce of New York. In all, the
recent contributions to improve this Observatory
amount to $60,000. Thus, the prospects of the
It is the intention of the friends of the Observatory to mark in some way this re-establishment of it on a firmer and more suitable basis. This would probably take the form of a public meeting, with short addresses, preferably by scientific investigators, and in case the Academy should decide to hold its session for November, 1873, in Albany we would arrange for this meeting then and showed hope that the members of the Academy would consent to honor us with their presence. It would be our plan to avoid sensational effects, and to extend the work of scientific research. We feel that we could not possibly accomplish this better than by inducing the National Academy to lend its countenance to our institution on the occasion of our proposed re-dedication.

I hope you will kindly consent to present this matter to the attention of the Academy at the proper time, and to express to its members the assurance of the very great gratification which would be felt by the friends of the Dudley Observatory and others...
should they decide to hold the November session of this year in Albany. I suppose the practice of the Academy is merely to choose a place of meeting without special reference to formal invitations, which, as I understand it, are not specially encouraged. Should, however, a more formal invitation, signed by a number of persons, be considered necessary, I will see that one is forwarded at once.

Hoping to hear from you soon, in reply to this, and for favorable action on your part, or on that of the Academy, as may be necessary, I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Director
Secretary
Personal

April 12, 1873.

Dear Professor Marsh,

Thank you for your very acceptable letter of the 10th. I have acted on your suggestion, and you will doubtless receive communications from the official representatives of the Board of Regents and of the Albany Institute, from the “executive board” of the latter to be commended especially for the purpose.

I happened to meet Mrs. J.V.L. Poultney this afternoon and showed her your letter. She at once manifested the most cordial interest and without the least suggestion, direct or indirect, on my part, at once expressed her desire to entertain the Academy for one of its evenings here. Aside from the very high social position of Mrs. Poultney, whom you know, her proposition...
is especially appropriate considering the fact that her husband, for a score of years previous to his death, was Chancellor of the Board of Regents, President of the Albany Institute etc. etc. Since the suggestion of Mrs. Powne is equivalent to a Command, I had no hesitation in assuring her that her proposed reception would have precedence in making arrangements for the Albany meeting, if there is to be one. She was absent from the city in 1885. Without doubt the Observatory will wish to entertain the Academy for one evening, and I fear that there will be one (possibly two) other suggestions of the kind which we can scarcely overlook. I think it is a mistake to permit too much of the time of the members to be taken up with these social functions.

I regret very much that I shall be unable to attend the Academy meeting next week since the new building enterprise here is in a stage that demands my
DUDLEY OBSERVATORY,
ALBANY, N. Y.

Attention daily for two or three weeks to come. I saw Professor Hall today, who said he would join me in my invitation, probably in a letter to the Secretary of the Academy expressing his regret at inability to attend the April session of the Academy.

He is about 83 years old and bony, though strong today, has seemed to grow younger. He holds himself remarkably upright and steps about as lively as a young man.

Hoping the Academy will concur in your amiable view of our invitation to Albany, I am,

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

P.S. The Institute letter will be addressed to you at the Smithsonian Institution.
Dear Professor Marsh,

I have not forgotten your determination to appoint me Chairman of the local committee to make arrangements for the Academy meeting here in November. From time to time I have conferred with various persons in regard to external features of the meeting, so that I am convinced the Academy will not suffer for lack of attention. The people here are desirous of meeting the members in a social way on at least three evenings—quite likely on four, though I have been exerting a little pressure to keep it down to three.

Can the Academy be kept in session four days if it should seem desirable—7th to 10th inclusive? Perhaps the Observatory reception or inspection could be made from 4 to 6 or 7 P.M. a week or ten days from now. I will be able to give more definite information.

I have not yet called the committee together as there seemed to be no immediate occasion for it. But the time has arrived when definite arrangements must be made. As you informed me there were to serve on the Committee: Prof. Hale, Mr. Vip, president of the Albany Institute, Etnl. Rathbone, President of the Observatory Trustee, and a representative of the Board of Regents.
I suppose you would also appoint some experienced member of the Academy when we could consult on certain practical details. If so, I should be glad to have the full committee designated by you, so that we can make our joint arrangements as soon as practicable.

I hope we are to have a full attendance, and that you will give the cue to as many as you can. That a fairly good time is in store for all.

As to the arrangements for the Exercises connected with the Observations, they are not yet decided upon, but they will probably be simple. We shall establish our programme very soon now. The Observatory will be substantially completed at the date of the meeting. I think sufficiently early to give a good idea of what it is to be in its visible aspect and its equipment.

I should esteem it a favor if you could, from time to time, give me the names of members who signify an intention to be present at the Albany meeting. We are anxious to have a large meeting.

I shall, very likely, extend an invitation to all astronomers of prominence, past members of the Academy, as well as members, to be present at the Observatory Exercises or inspection.

I have been extremely busy this year in the various operations connected with getting our little Observatory into shape, and shall be compelled to reconcile my efforts this month, to bring our equipment to the point where it can be seen about what our facilities for work are to be.

I should be glad to receive from you any suggestions as to the practical details which in preparing for the daily meeting for the Academy, in which matter your long experience would be of the greatest value. We shall probably have the use of rooms in the Capitol as before.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Oct 15, 1873

Dear Professor Marsh:

I received yours of Oct. 7 while preparing to go to New York to meet an engagement there at 3 P.M. Monday the 9th. The engagement was with Mrs. Bruce who gave the Observatory $25,000 last year. Mrs. Bruce, who is 75 years old is in very feeble health requiring constant attendance. Therefore I did not feel justified in telegraphing to her a postmortem upon the hour of my visit on the chance of catching you when you were about to take the 3 P.M. "Flying." I hope this explanation will serve as a good excuse for me, since I had no chance to reach you even by telegraph at the time when I received your letter. I also wrote to have sent you a note to Chicago asking you to let me know when you would pass through Albany on your return. My multifarious pressing little duties put this out of my mind until it was too late.

Furthermore, I know you will be glad as that you will recognize the relative importance of my visit to Min Bruce when I tell you that she made the Observatory a nice present of another $2000. Cash which I brought home with me Wednesday, as which relieves us from our embarrassment. We have to work in a small, as modest way here— not at all on the scale upon which things are done in New Haven or Cambridge.

Now as to the arrangements for the Academy meeting I think that I understand the principal points as to what is required of the Committee of Arrangements, these functions are somewhat larger than I had supposed. The members of the Committee are in addition to the Chairman...
as you named them officially;

James Hall (Member of the State Senate & State Geologist)
Melville Deyou (Representing Board of Regents)
(Chairman)
John F. Rathbone (President of the Trustee of the
Observatory)
Leonard Kip (President of the Albany Institute).

all excellent ones.

We have the use of such rooms in the Capitol as
we may require. I have pledged for the "Assembly Parlor"
as adjoining Committee rooms. But the meetings can be
held in the Senate Chamber, if preferred.

I think we had better leave our daily lunches at the
fort Orange Club, as we can probably get even lower rates
than them at the hotels, as its location is very convenient
to the Capitol. Since you were there the Club house has
been greatly enlarged, and we have a fine dining room. The
House Committee of the Club expressed themselves very cordially
in the matter. Members will receive cards for the club as
fast as we can secure their reinforcements here.

There are to be two evening receptions, one by our
hostess on the 7th (she told me last summer that you were
to be her guest), and another reception at the evening of Wednesday
the 23rd by Senator John F. Rathbone, one of our most distinguished
Citizens, as President of the Observatory Trustees. We will have
a little afternoon view of the new Observatory within the 7th
or 8th; probably on the latter date—"for the scientific as educational
Element is worth while, and in like line, what we shall be
able to accomplish, in reference to "exercises" is not now definitely
known; but will be, I hope, within a very few days. They will
be simple in any case, and we shall probably use the
Senate Chamber in the Capitol, hoping to have the academy attend
in body under the whole thing falls through, which is probable in
case the first man we have asked to make a short address declines.

I am in communication with Professor Hall of Washington in regard
to the printing, etc.

The Observatory will not be quite as it ought to be for view, but
I think it will be sufficiently in shape to afford a fair idea of
what it is to be. The instrument maker has delayed as they always do.
I hope you will induce as many of the New Haven men as others of your friends to come; for I think we shall have a pleasant meeting. Though, of course, we cannot compete with New York, Philadelphia, Boston, or Baltimore, which as cities as scientific centers have such varied objects of interest.

Both Mrs. Young and Mrs. Rathbone are a little curious to know if there is any special form, customary form, of invitation used by those who entertain the Academy. I have destroyed (in accordance therewith) all the invitations I have received on Academy occasions. I suppose that the guests would simply be asked to meet the members of the National Academy of Sciences, as both receptions are to be in their honor.

I scarcely think that additional members of the Committee are necessary. The occasion of my inquiry was due to the terms of Rule IV, which seemed to imply a Committee of Academician. Since it has to do with the length of time, the occupancy by papers, the arrangement of them, etc., which I would suppose would not, in any case, be required to those not members of the Academy. As far as arrangements are concerned, the Committee has not yet met as everything seems to settle itself easily as expeditiously. But I will call the Committee together this week to ratify this as to do a little further into matters of detail. Please do not hesitate to make any suggestions or requests which may occur to you as useful, and I will try to have your wishes carried out.

I have proceeded on the idea that the meeting would last only three days, and wish to consume Wednesday afternoon in debating matters of our arrangements, so that there would be only the morning session on that day.

Very truly yours,

Lewd Kings
Dear Professor March,

Some days since I wrote you in regard to the Academy meeting here anticipating your return to New Haven. I suppose you found nothing especially calling for comment.

I write now to let you know that our arrangements are progressing nicely so far as I can judge. The Committee has appointed the small duties it has as met yesterday for comparing notes.

As I have informed you previously, there are to be receptions by Mrs. Brown on the 7th of April. Rathbone on the 8th. On the afternoon of the 8th we shall expect members to accept our invitation to inspect the new Observatory from 3:30 p.m. The occasion will be quite informal. The invitation will include the Regents, certain State and City Officers, etc.
Dear Sirs,

I have the honor to inform you that the President has decided to propose the name of Mr. A. B. C. D. for the position of Chairman of the Academic Council. Eh, if one of their reading classes is still in session, I am sure that there will be a great deal of advantage in this. However, I am sure that you will be able to decide who is best suited for the position. We have received the assurance that the President will be present at the meeting to be held on Friday, the 2nd of June. A committee has been formed for the purpose of selecting a suitable member of the faculty to fill this position.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
Dear Professor Marsh,

I thank you for some of the 32 with titles of two papers—those from Professor Hale, and the other from Charles E. Becker (endorsed by A. Hyatt). This issue seven papers thus far as his biographical memoir. There are no others in sight, unless at this last moment I should conclude to enter a paper (which it is next to impossible for me to do).

I think most of the arrangements are made and that things should go rather smoothly.

I hope to meet you Monday evening, but have been kindly allowed the unusual favor of having a choice of remaining at the Observatory should extreme urgency require it—which I think will not be the case.

If you can get some papers, do so, for this is a poor locality for them.

Very truly yours,

Lewis Ross
P.S. Many thanks for your kind consent to speak for the Academy in our little celebration. I suppose you will be called upon immediately after Professor Newcomb. Newcomb expects to arrive Tuesday afternoon and will be the guest of Dr. E.H. Ward.