1886 Jan. 18

Dear Marsh:

Last Thursday, the day you left, I went to Baird's over coffee, paper, and on Friday I went over to the Inkwells. Baird, Gill & Elliott could not be found, but with the aid of Rees, the chief clerk, I got into Gill's room, a very dirty hole, but could find nothing. On Saturday I got a note from Rees, saying that they had given up the search, and so I wrote to Comegys for a new copy of the paper. The fish business seems to have upset Baird, and if Congress should knock it in the head it would be a great benefit to the country and to Baird.

Our manuscripts are all right in
Newcomb's office.

Yours truly
A. Hall
1886 Jan. 20

Dear Marsh:

I have given Coffin the copy of letter to chaplain relating to the medal for Langley.

This morning I got letter from Baird Gill & Cole. Baird sends two, one official, regretting the loss of our paper. The Gill is directed to Baird, and in it he says he has spent six days searching for the paper. This, I think, is very much, since last Friday the dust on the paper in his room showed they had not been stores for months. Cole is very curt, and says Gill must have till he finds the paper. So I will go down again and make another trial.

Yours truly,

A. Hall
Received Copy of Paper this morning minus the drawing.
United States Postal Card

Nothing but the address to be on this side.

Prof. O. P. Marsh
Yale College
New Haven
Conn.
Jan 25, 1886.

Prof O.C. Marsh,
Committee on Publication,

Dear Sir: The Academy has biographical notices of Maj. Hunt, U.S. Engineer, prepared by President F.H.P. Barnard, and of Mr. Henry Fitz, prepared by Mr. L. C.W. Rutherford. These gentlemen were not members of the Academy. Will you inform me whether such notices should be included in the collection of biographical notices of deceased members, which is to be printed by the Academy.

Very respectfully,
J. Hall
Honor Secretary
1886 Feb. 4.

Dear Marsh:

The Report and memoir are all right, but I'm drawing for Cott's memoir had not been found Monday. They said at the lunchroom that Mr. was coming here this week, and that he and Mr. would make out a sketch. This has been an awful task, and I think it will be caught by Baird again. The man seems to be
beside himself about it. Fish len. and can think of nothing else.

I sent a couple of eels in y Park I yesterday.
18 incher, y snow here, but it is very light.

Yours truly

A. Hall
Dear Mr. Jones:

We waited an hour for the mail, but the Wood Rep. did not come. Probably it will be here tonight or tomorrow, but as the Senate generally adjourns over Saturday, I may not be able to get the whole Report in before Monday. But then shall be no delay when does not appear yet.

Yours truly,

A. Hall
dear March:

Shall be glad to see you here.
I am trying to get the biographical memoir ready to print. They are badly scattered but think I will get about 12 that will make a volume of 500 pp., which is big enough, and as much as our treasury can stand at present. Will talk of over when you come.

I think we will have to postpone the transit of Venus committee meeting until Apr. Harkness has not yet written out his notes of last meeting. You see how things here.

Yours truly

A. Hall
February 24, 1886.

Prof. O. C. Marsh
President Nat. Acad. of Sciences
Wormley’s Hotel

Sir:

A meeting of the Commission on the Transit of Venus will be held at the Naval Observatory on Saturday the 21st instant at 11 o’clock A.M. You are
Requested to be present.

Very respectfully,

A. Hall

Prof. Math. M.D.

Pres't of Commission.
Dear Marsh:

I had written to Mayer about his paper before your letter came. All I could do for him is to keep it and try to have the printer add it as a letter appendix to the Vol.

It really ought to go with that volume as it belongs to Mayer's memoir. Perhaps they would insist if there is an error.

I have had letters drawn.
up to the Secretaries of the Navy and Treasury about the Haldeman. Have written business of the Hausdorff of them. Also to Coffin about Denver Corn. The letters were a memoir of Walson for approved by the execution committee and have been sent to the Secretary of the Navy. The tries twice. We have had eight clear nights to see him but he was cloudy weather.

Yesterday I started the printing of the biographical memoir. I have 12 on hand with a promise of two or three more. Agassiz never handed in his memoir.
1886 Mar 13

Dear March:

Yesterday I received from the Navy Dept. the statement of accounts of Mr. J. B. with Resolution, with the endorsement that the accounts of the Dept. show that our account is incorrect. This means of course when the 4th Auditor told me, that the money is expended on vouchers approved by the Navy Dept. This is all the rate, joining the line, will get from that source. You see the Gale is in the water.

Yours truly,

A. Hall
Dear Marsh:

We have been struggling with Packard's memoir of Wyman, and I have just got the last proof to send to Packard, who starts for Florida next Tuesday. The manuscript was very bad, written on old letter-covers, with many blanks, and needs a good proof-reading. He has two proofs, one for himself and one for Professor Dana, to send me his memoir of Egypt.
by the end of this month. Leslie has sent me his a. Haldeman which he might use at the next meeting. It is in good shape. I was misled about our having two of Strong, and probably Alexander never sent in his. Judge Bradley was subpoenaed by Prof. Newy, after some complaints had been made by Strong's friends. I think we shall make out a fair sized volume. In doing such work I see the army officers have some decided virtues. Abbott is an excellent man to deal with. He has a clear head and is prompt. We shall get nothing out of Gill. The printer made an estimate on our memoirs, and did not keep the manuscript but a day. I have kept watch of the Record, but nothing has been done yet. If you can give anyone a hint it will be well.

Yours truly
A. Hall
Dear Marsh:

Yesterday Packard returned his proof and the printers can now go on. I hope to get Sand's Ayespot in type by Wednesday, so as to get proof for you to read. Packard delayed us this week, as he had 50 pp. set up and then left for Florida. We shall have a volume of 400 pp. I proposed to the other trustee, Mr. Watson, that they should help Hilgard to finish his memoir, but they declined. Coffin on the ground of eyesight, and sketch on the ground that he knew Watson too well. This has been a tedious work, and has taken a good part of my time for a month.
...I want no more of it. Agassiz writes that his memoir of Poulett was printed in Boston. The printing of the memoir has not been ordered yet.

Perhaps you remember the discussion on astronomical at Albany. I heard the matter had subsided for the present century, but it has come up again in an official letter from the British Gov. and we have had to face it. Our officials are ironed because the Resolution was unanimously adopted by the Cong. held here in 1884, and has been attested by a committee of the Academy. All this comes from the intermeddling of men who do not well understand the matter they undertake to judge. Bbd.

...speech at Albany was a sample. Powell was still worse. Our Committee is wrong on this point.

About a week after I wrote you I received a letter from Secretary Whitney about the Rev. of Demo accounts, which had been referred to me with a curt endorsement. I think you must have stirred up Newman, as I expected. I went down and, with Newman, then saw the Secretary who took back our letter. A few days ago I got from the Navy Dept. a full statement of their accounts of the Rev. of Demo Commission. I shall make a careful comparison and hope to be ready for a meeting on Saturday, the 24th, if convenient.
for you. It is not easy to make the comparison as the debit account is with Paymaster who draws round sum, while ours is for each item. But at a glance we see that the larger part of the discrepancy is explained. This obliged about six thousand dollars. The exact sum is $5950. From $1230 we paid Carl Raymond by the Dept, for expenses in coming from in 1874-75, but was not entered on our account, and several hundred dollars were covered in to the Treasury to the Surplus Fund. Here we have eight thousand dollars, some of it can be got back. Probably we can now make things square. The photographic work was ended April 1st. Your resolution, he, had a good effect. Hankins is moving around and begins to count the months - only 20 left. Then is nothing to do now but to approve vouchers of comptroller, and I think that I had better go on as President on May 1st.

Your friend,

[signature]
April 27, 1886

Dear Sir,

A meeting of the Transit of Venus Commission will be held at the Naval Observatory on Saturday, the 24th instant, at 11 o'clock a.m. You are respectfully invited to be present.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Prof. O. Lockman
Prof. Mathes, Ass't
Prof. Nat. Acad. Sciences
Superintendent

[Signature]
Dear Marsh:

I have today received a statement from Mr. Shelley, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury, concerning the Transit of Venus money that was used by this Office. It appears that the $2,000, $3,000, and $9,500, were appropriated for the Commission, but put under the head of Naval Observatory. Of course all this money should have been used for the purposes of the Commission, as was intended by Congress, but I can have only the last sum $9,500. The first
sum; $2,000, was expended when Admiral Schenck was Supt.; the second, $3,000, when Admiral Davis was Supt. Of this, $5,000 not much seems to have been used for the Commission; though it is not possible to speak positively, since the money was merged with other property belonging to the Navy. The $9,500 was expended when Ad. John Rogers was Supt. and all this was expended for the Commission. So you see there is a difference in Supt's. This statement relieves the Commission of all responsibility.

I think, in regard to this money, $5,000. Moreover I show that the Navy Dept. was not at fault, since the transfer was made somewhere else, probably at the State Dept. As I might have been, the carelessness of some clerk in Congress.

We are now printing the memoir of Woodward, and have only this of Draper left, if Draper sends it in.

Have you heard further about the printing of our memoir and your Report. Will not your Report next Fall answer for our annual list of members and Const. The biographical memoir will cost nearly $600.

Your truly,
A. Hall
1886. Jan. 14

Dear Marsh:

I send ten copies of Constitution &c. or you will need some to cut up. Thank you for your corrections. Those in the act, y incorporation I had mostly to omit, being this one in the original on record at State Dept.

Cope sent them a few weeks ago, and I got from him a way y that drawing that
was lost last winter by Baird, Gill & Co. So we are all ready now as soon as the Resolution for the printing is passed.

A biographical memoir on printed at last, and I hope to send them out this week. There are 389 pp., so my estimate of cost will be nearly right.

Yours truly,
A. Hall
Dear March:

I have just seen a Report of the Congr. Com. on scientific surveys, which has been sent to our library. From this report the majority probably there will be no charge, unless to cut down the appropriations. There is a sharp minority report by Herbert and Morgan, assailing the geological survey and the Coast survey. I see they quote Maj. Powell as estimating the cost of coast
survey years at 350 millions.

Then they quoted Agassiz against Powell. They play off scientific
men against each other.

This reminds me of our
printing. Do you know how
it stands in Congress. I have
done nothing, as I understood
from you, that arrangements
had been made.

I do not get off the biograph-
ical memoirs yet.

Yours truly,
A. Hall
1886, June 21

Dear Marsh:

On looking at the Constitution, Art. IV, Sect. 9, I see that I am wrong in omitting Agassiz's name from the list of members. It appears that he is really a member until the Academy has acted on, and accepted his resignation.

Yours truly

A. Hall
1886, Aug. 16

Dear Marshall:

In clearing out my letter drawer I find the note about the Academy received last spring, and enclose it.

Your printing should be nearly done. I have got in the drawing of Cole though with some trouble. Also May’s additional note. But such things make too much trouble.

Yours truly

A. Hall
In our issue of June of last year we referred to certain conditions of membership of the National Academy of Sciences in the following terms: "In the interval between the annual meetings of 1884 and '85 two members of a committee appointed to investigate a question affecting one of the bureaus of which they themselves are employees, were requested to resign from the committee by the chief of the bureau in question. This was in obedience to the rule that a department of the Government cannot be criticized by its subordinates. It requires no argument to show that if this rule be carried out with reference to the Academy of Sciences, its usefulness as an independent body is at an end. There is also another danger which flows directly from the same or a similar attitude on the part of heads of bureaus. These gentlemen by filling up the academy with their employees can obtain practical control of its decisions. This would be immensely convenient to them under various circumstances, but it would introduce an element of corruption into the academy from which it has hitherto happily free, and which would deprive it of the respect and confidence of the country."

In the case first cited the bureau's action would indicate an apprehension of hostile criticism, perhaps judging from the characters of its employees who had been appointed to investigate. In the latter case reference was made to a case where the bureau concerned did not ask its employees to resign, since it evidently did not fear any adverse report as a result of their investigation. In this case two members of the committee appointed by the president of the academy to cooperate with the committee of Congress in the investigation of the scientific bureaus, were employed by one of the bureaus at high salaries. There are a good many men who, under such circumstances, would be unable to perceive any faults in the administration of their bureaus.

The position of the academy in relation to these matters is, to say the least of it, unfortunate. And the situation of its members is reduced to utter helplessness in consideration of the manner in which committees are appointed and are permitted to report. That is, they are appointed in the interval of the academy's meetings by the president alone, and make their reports without the supervision or criticism of the academy, which only hears of them at the next meeting as a matter of history! The academy is thus made responsible for any report that a committee of paid employees of a department may choose to make respecting that bureau. The situation is such that no member of the academy can wish it to continue. The reflections which the world can justly make on its position ought not to be possible.

As a remedy for this fundamental evil, we propose the following changes in the constitution of the academy:

1. No more than one-half of the members of the National Academy shall be paid employees of the Government.
2. The president of the academy shall be selected from those members who are not paid employees of the Government.
3. Committees selected to report on the efficiency of a Government bureau, shall not embrace any employees of that bureau.
4. The committees shall be selected by the president and council, which shall also approve the reports of committees before they are sent to Congress.
5. The members of the council who are not such ex officio shall be selected from the different classes of the academy as follows: One from the anthropological class; two from the biological; two from the physical; and one from the applied class.
6. The membership of the academy shall be divided into four classes as follows: Anthropology, embracing philosophy, pure mathematics and anthropology in the limited sense; Biology, including the biological sciences and psychology; Physics, including astronomy, physics, chemistry and geology, without palaeontology; and Applied sciences. The proportion of membership of each should be .15 p. c., .35 p. c., .35 p. c., and .15 p. c.
7. The members of the academy should be salaried, $1000 per annum for members; $1500 for members of the council, and $5000 for the president.
1886 Sept. 27

Dear Marsh:

I am glad to hear of your return, and hope you have had a pleasant time. Here the summer was cool, but this month has been warm. Your Report was printed and I have sent it to all members and associates; you ought to have 20 copies. Prof. Brewer wanted 25 copies, and I sent them. They all went through the Smithsonian, to save postage, and I hope were
duly received. Several parties have asked for it, and I have sent it. The printing on the memoir has not begun yet. Some changes have been made at the Printing Office, and also they have been pushed with work. They will soon take up our memoirs, and will go ahead rapidly when once begun. The plates are in the hands of Bien of New York, and if we can get them finished they will not be much delay in getting out the volume. The plate always causes delay, and Packard now has some proofs more than three weeks, I think he will soon be done. Prof. Loomis writes me that he is sick and wants me to have his proof read here. What ought I to do? I am too busy to do it myself, or anything more than to see that the corrections are inserted in the 2d revision.

Yours truly,
A. Hall
1886, Oct. 3

Dear Marsh:

Our printing has taken a sudden start, and a large quantity of proof came in last night. Loomis' proof is finished. Peter (our Courtstück, Billings are in type, etc.) all y Package that he handed in, but he has sent a lot more of his awful copy and wants me to look it on to the
end of his paper, I will try to get it in, but if I see the Printer I would think I will not. Packard's illustrations are good, and most of Bier's, but I have not yet got them. I have had my usual row with our friend Cook. He wanted to take his drawing out of the hands of Bier and put it in the hands of Sinclair and wanted me to authorize him to send from $150 to $200 more on the drawing and lithograph. He must get along with Bier, the best he can. The scientific feller are a hard lot. I expect to go on to Boston Friday night, Nov 5. I hear Walker will all things ready for the meeting. Will see him next Saturday. Gift, her sent 3 boxes of instruments here.

Yours truly

A. Hall
Oct. 5, 1886.

Dear Marsh,

Coffin wants the endorsed document filed up to enable him to get the expenses of the opium committee from the U.S. Treasury. Please sign and return to Coffin, 1901 9th, nw.

Yours Truly,

A. Hall
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

A scientific session of the Academy will be held in Boston, at the Institute of Technology, on Tuesday, November 9th, 1886, at 12 o’clock M.

The Council will meet at 11 A. M.

Members are requested to send the titles of their papers to General Francis A. Walker, Institute of Technology, Boston, Mass., before November 8th.

A call for a special stated session of the Academy, on Wednesday, November 10th, is appended to this notice.

A. Hall,
Home Secretary.

WASHINGTON,
1886, October 7th.
SPECIAL STATED SESSION.

A special stated session of the National Academy of Sciences is called for Wednesday, November 10th, 1886, in the city of Boston, to consider the President's Annual Report to Congress. (Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution.)

By direction of the Council.

A. Hall,
Home Secretary.

1886, October 7th.
1886, Nov. 3

Dear Marsh:

I have received letters of five papers for our meeting in Boston, and have sent them to Walker, two an by Cour, the other by non-members need go before Council, which should meet Tuesday to decide on their paper.

Yours truly,

A. Hall
Lansing sends me his memoir on the Solar and Lunar Spectrum. Do you want it at New Haven?

A. Hall
Nothing but the address to be on this side.

J. C. E. Marsh
Yale College
New Haven
Conn.
1886, Dec. 12

Dear Marsh:

Yesterday Langley sent here some drawings to go with his memoir. The drawings are in a large case, and perhaps it is better they remain here until you come on.

Our printing is nearly done. Everything is in type, and yesterday I got from the 2d Revision of his memoir. The drawings are
nearly completed by Bin, only Cos's plates and Iris of Billings remain.

We have had an early winter here with much snow.

yours truly
A. Hall
1886, Dec. 14

Dear Marsh:

I think Coffin has money to pay the Bill for lunch in Boston, and I have approved and sent it to him. Today I have been to the Printing Office. Our printing is nearly all done. Billings has a large number of illustrations, but we are nearly through with them. Today I sent Packard proof of his Plato. The work by Riem seems to me very good.
Bin has been very accommodating and has made changes to improve any without extra charge. I have not yet got this Plate, but sent him his text yesterday to put in lettering on Plate. It looks now as though we could send out Part 2 in January. This Part has 169 pages of text, but the large number of illustrations will make it bulky.

Yours truly,

A. Hall
Dear Marsh:

Newcomb sent me the letter from the French Academy with M. Monchey's programme. I think Pickering is the man for our delegate.

Yours truly,

A. Hall