New Haven, Conn.,
July 5th, 1886.

Hon. H.A. Herbert,
Dear Sir:

I do not believe that you wish to do injustice either to the National Academy of Sciences or to myself personally, but you certainly have done both. In the House on Wednesday last (if the Congressional Record is correct), you said, "This Academy has become one of the active political forces of the country." If by this you mean that the Academy has exceeded the authority given it by Congress, and has interfered either in politics or legislation, I must respectfully deny the assertion. The Academy was chartered as the scientific adviser of the Government, and I know of no instance, if any department of the Government has asked for advice, this has been given without fear or favor, but so far as I am aware, the Academy itself has never volunteered either its advice or its influence. Individual members may have done this, but not the Academy or its official representatives. Since I have been president, I have been especially cautious on this point.
Now a word about myself, and my scientific work for Yale College and the Government.

(1) I have never received a single dollar as salary for twenty years' service in Yale College.

(2) For the preparation of Vol. VII, of Clarence Kings' Survey (involving several years' work, and several thousand dollars of my own money), I received no compensation whatever.

(3) All the illustrations in the article on "Birds with teeth," in the Annual Report of the Geological Survey for 1881-'82, were made at my own expense, and cost the Government nothing.

These were the two volumes shown in the debate, as examples of extravagance.

(4) My acceptance of Government work was not of my own seeking, but since I have been on the Geological Survey, I have given my whole time to its service, and have received no salary from any other source. Moreover, I have expended the greater part, if not all of my salary, for the interests of the work in hand.

(5) My nominal connection with Yale College has saved the Government several thousand dollars annually in rent, and has otherwise been of much service to the Geological Survey.
Such being the facts, you will, I am sure, pardon me for bringing them personally to your notice, not that I wish any public correction to be made, but merely to prevent in future a recurrence of injustice, however unintentional.

In conclusion, allow me to say that, so far as I can learn, in this Country the great majority of scientific men are decidedly opposed to your view of the relations of Government to Science. Among the exceptions are some who honor science even in error, and others, evidently with whom the matter is a personal one.

Believing that you have had the interests of the Government at heart in the course you have taken, I regret extremely that I could not have had a square talk with you in the beginning, and laid before you some of the claims of Science. Could I have done so, I am sure the present letter at least would have been unnecessary.

Very respectfully,

O. C. Marsh.
Letter to
Hon. H. A. Herbert
July 57th, 1886.
House of Representatives U. S.,
Washington, D. C., July 13, 1886

Prof. C. C. Marsh
My dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter and thinking it due you, will if you desire it take occasion to read it in the House. I should at the same time make comment explanatory of my position as to the Academy and its relations to the Government.

I am radically Democratic in my views—I believe in a little book government.
as possible - that Government should keep hands off and allow the individual fair play. This is the doctrine I learned from Adam Smith & Mill & Bostele, from Jefferson, Newton and Calhoun; and from this standpoint I believe we have too much to do (the God's) with pure science. At the same time I beg to assure you that no one Representative more highly than I do the value of science or has a more sincere regard for its
House of Representatives U. S.,
Washington, D. C., 188

I certainly have no desire to, you or the Academy any injustice.
Very respectfully yours,

Hilary A. Herber
New Haven, Conn.,
July 15th, 1886.

Hon. H. A. Herbert,

Dear Sir:

Your kind letter of the 13th inst. was duly received. The object of my personal letter to you was accomplished in bringing to your attention the points it contained, and I judge from your reply that you appreciate them. I do not care to have my letter read in the House to correct what is past, for I dislike such personal notoriety, but if at any future time, a similar injustice should be done me there, you are at liberty to use it.

Very respectfully,

O. G. Marsh.