Cosmos Club.
April 19 1886
10, 45 P.M.

Dear Sir,

I have just learned of the meeting of the Academy of Sciences to be held tomorrow.

Permit me respectfully to call the attention of the Academy to a science hitherto almost wholly neglected but which deserves earnest attention from a body so learned and eminent as yours.

Yours...

[Signature]
It will be self-evident to the scientific mind that legislation must be reducible to scientific principles and that to ignore the science of legislation much of the defective law-making of today is to be excused. The foundations of that science were laid broad and deep by the greatest legislator that ever lived."
Jeremy Bentham—but in most one of the schools or Colleges of this broad land is any instruction furnished in this science so essential to the lawmaker. Only the other day the Trustees of Columbia University M. Y. proposed to establish a Coll. of political science and
Actually made no provision for the teaching of this science, while our law schools— the nurseries of our future lawmakers are equally deficient and far more pernicious for they train their students to look on what is as what ought be and make the lawyer and future lawmaker
The greatest foes to law reform.

Peoples cannot be rendered wise, virtuous or happy by legislation, but they may be rendered vicious and unhappy by evil laws.

Such is our case at present and a knowledge of the science of legislation will increase
Teach those conversant with it how to remove the inducements to vice which our present bad laws afford.

Having made this science the study of my life—should be able if you think fit to call upon me, even at very short notice— to present to your meeting.
Some ideas upon the subject in a 20 minutes address which I am quite sure will set your members thinking and make them resolve that at future meetings the subject shall receive a full share of attention.

Respectfully,
Montague R. Levenson, Ph. M. A., 1805 G. S. W. Washington, D.C. (of San Fr. Cal.)