House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C., July 8th, 1884.

Professor O. C. March,

Dear Professor:

Hereewith I enclose you a formal letter on the part of the Joint Congressional Committee to consider the tract survey etc. You will see that this is an investigation of great moment and pregnant with good or with evil to the scientific operations of the Government, and I therefore venture to crave your hearty interest.

I know that this, being the dean of college vacations, is an inconvenience to some members of the National Academy; and yet, in a matter of this importance, I trust the members may be willing to lend a helping hand. By appointing a committee of the proper size and by dividing the work among them, it might
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C., 1887.

not be very income for each one.

The origin of the Committee is this: The Democratic Committee of Ways and Means has had a strong fit of economy during the session. They thought among other things that they could save $10,000 a year, by leaving the Coast Survey to pieces, and distributing the sheets among other Departments. If this, there was a general revolt and this Committee is a lot of a recalcitrant compromise.

As to the personnel of your Committee, I ought not to go further than to suggest that it ought not to lean overmuch to any one of the Branches of the Service which are to be investigated. I do not know if Alex. Agassiz could find time to lend a hand, but he
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C., 1884.

would be valuable, even though he did nothing more than to read the sub-report and write a little compendium of his own views.

Very truly yours,

Theodore Lyman

P.S. My address, until July 18th, will be care of Alex. Agassiz, Newport, R.I., and after that, Brookline, Mass.
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C., July 9th, 1884.

Professor O. C. March,
President of the National Academy Sciences.

Dear Sir:

I beg leave to call your attention to the following clause in the Sundry Civil Bill which has just been passed by Congress:

That a joint commission, consisting of three Senators, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall consider the present organizations of the Signal Service, Geological Survey, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and the Hydrographic Office of the Navy Department, with the view to secure greater efficiency and economy of administration of the public service in said Bureaus; and said joint commission shall report to their respective Houses on the first Monday in December, eighteen hundred and eighty-four, their conclusions, by bill or report.
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C., 188

The Members appointed under this act are
Hon. William B. Allison (Chairman)
Senate. Hon. Eugene Hale
  Hon. George H. Pendleton
  Hon. Robert Lowery
House. Hon. H. A. Herbet
  Hon. Theodore Lyman

You will observe that there is involved nothing less than an investigation of the important branches of our government, all of them scientific in their character. With the exception of the Coast Survey these branches have taken on especial importance only within the last few
years. They have grown rapidly, and have reached a position, where they are in some respects, impinge one on another, in such a way as to threaten, in certain cases a duplication of work and perhaps some waste and confusion.

The members of the Joint Commission feel that as a matter of much importance, they should have the counsel of all men who have special knowledge of the questions involved. They are of the opinion that in addition to the information which the Department can furnish, they should have the advice of a Committee of the National Academy of Sciences.

You are therefore requested to appoint
at your early convenience, such a committee, whose duty it shall be to report on the subject matter of the clause in the landry Civil Bill, already quoted.

As a guide in this investigation, the following points are suggested for your consideration.

First: What is the organization of the government surveys and of the signal service in the chief countries of Europe, and could any part of this organization be advantageously adopted in this country?

Secondly: In what way can the scientific branches above referred to be best coordinated?
Thirdly. What changes in or additions to these Branches are desirable?

Except in illustrating the general subject, it will not be necessary for the Committee to enter into detail into the finances of these Branches or the number of their employees.

As the Joint Commission are directed to report on the third Monday in December, the report of the Committee of the National Academy should, if possible, be ready by the first day of next October. The report may be forwarded to me in Brookline, Mass.

Very respectfully,

Theodore Lyman M. C.
(Copy)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., July 9th, 1884.

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

Dear Sir:

I beg leave to call your attention to the following clause in the Sundry Civil Bill which has just been passed by Congress:

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The Members appointed under this act are

Hon. William B. Allison (chairman)

Senate
Hon. Eugene Hale
Hon. George H. Pendleton
Hon. Robert Lowry

House
Hon. H.A. Herbert
Hon. Theodore Lyman

You will observe that there is involved nothing less than an investigation of four important Branches of our Government, all of them scientific in their character. With the exception of the Coast Survey these Branches have taken on especial importance only within the last few years. They have grown rapidly, and have reached a position, where they, in some respects, impinge one on another, in such a way as to threaten, in certain cases a duplication of work and perhaps some waste and confusion.

The members of the Joint Commission feel that in a matter of such importance, they should have the counsel of all men who have special knowledge of the questions involved. They are of the opinion that in addition to the information which the
Departments can furnish, they should have the advice of a committee of the National Academy of Sciences. You are therefore requested to appoint, at your early convenience, such a committee, whose duty it shall be to report on the subject of the clause in the Sundry Civil Bill, already quoted.

As a guide in this investigation, the following points are suggested for your consideration.

First: What is the organization of the Government Surveys and of the Signal Service in the chief countries of Europe, and could any part of this organization be advantageously adopted in this country?

Secondly: In what way can the scientific Branches above referred to be best coördinated?

Thirdly: What changes in or additions to these Branches are desirable?

Except as illustrating the general subject, it will not be necessary for the Committee to enter in detail into the expenses of these Branches or the number of their employes.

As the Joint Commission are directed to report on the third Monday in December, the report of the Committee of the National
Academy should, if possible, be ready by the first day of next October. The report may be forwarded to me in Brookline, Mass.

By order of the Commission,

Very respectfully,

Theodore Lyman, M.C.
(Personal)

Yale College, New Haven,
July 16th 1884.

Dear Professor Lyman,

Your important communication of the 21st inst., now duly noted, and as soon as I can decide on the whole Committee, I will send you a formal reply.

I went to Washington on Saturday last to consult with members of the Council about the matter, and hoped I might also find you there.

In your official letter there was an omission which was supplied in your personal letter to me, but as the former will be published as the basis of the Academy's action, I think it should be corrected if possible.

With the highest esteem,

[Signature]
now before the Committee is appointed, and I return this last check for that purpose.

If you will kindly add (either before or after your signature) the words: "by which the Committee, or something that affects this would give full authority for the Academic Assembly to act"

I think I shall be able to send you a stronger Committee.

Yours very truly,

O. Marsh

Hon. Theodore Lyman,
Castle Hill  
Newport

July 17 84

Professor O.C. Marsh

Dear Professor:

I return the letter with proper addition.

Did I call your attention to the fact that anything reasonable in way of "expenses" will be paid by the Commission. This would include documents, copying, etc.

Thank you for your
prompt action in this matter.

Truly yours,

Theodore Lyman

P.S. I see you have promoted me to be "Professor"
- I suppose of Politics!

J.L.
Brookline, Mass
Aug. 8, 84

Mr. J. Marshall
President Nat. Acad

My dear Sir:

I have the list of your Committee of the Academy on the Commission of Congress. There are brains enough; and we shall expect good results.
Of course we report that the different bureaus involved do not lobby too hard we may establish our scientific branches in such a way as to work together.

Truly Yours,

Theodore Symon
Yale College,  
New Haven, Conn.,  
Oct. 20th 1884.

Dear Professorlyman,

I sent you the Report of the Academy Committee from Newport, as soon as I could possibly get the signatures. The delay was caused by the stupidity of a clerk in Washington who misdirected the original copy, and it took more than a fortnight to hunt it up.

I send today with this the accompanying documents mentioned in my letter from Newport. I have quite a lot of printed matter (pertaining directly or indirectly to the questions submitted to the Committee) which I will send to you by express either to Brookline or Washington as you prefer. Some of it you may need at once, if your Commission meets before you go to Washington. A large part of it
is public Documents published by the various Surveys and the Signal Office.

About the Report itself, I may say something when I see you but for the present it speaks for itself.

The withdrawal of Newcomb and Comstock from the Committee by the Sec. of the Navy & Sec. of War I have mentioned in a note in the Report. You will understand the matter, I am sure, much better than I do, and know what action to take in regard to it.

Regretting that you could not be with me at Newport,

I remain,

Yours very truly,

O. C. Marsh.

Hon. Theodore Lyman.

2nd lot of accompanying document sent by horse Oct 27th 1884. to Brookline Mass. O.C.
Personal letter

to

Hon. Thev. Leaman.
Brookline, Mass.
House of Representatives H. S.,

Washington, D.C., Oct 20th, 1884.

Professor O. C. March,
Prof. Nat. Acad. of Sciences

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of
a Committee of the Nat. Acad.
emy of Sciences on the Organization of the National Sur-
veys and Signal Service.
The four letters referred to
as sent with the report have
not yet arrived but are, I presume, on the way.

Truly Yours,

Theodore Lyman
Brookline
Mass
October 23d, 1874

Professor O. C. Marsh,

Dear Professor:

I have duly received the
second enclosure from you
containing the letters to ac-
company the report of the
National Academy Committee
on the Government Surveys &c.
The documents you refer
to may as well be sent
to me here in Brookline
We certainly owe you a great deal for the pains you have taken in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Theodore Lyman
May 4th, 1885.

Professor O.C. Marsh,
President of National Academy.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of documents in regard to the questions of a new naval observatory etc. and the notice that you have appointed me as a member.
of the Committee to consider these questions.

It will give me pleasure to do so.

Truly yours,

Theodore Lyman
Brookline
Mass

Oct. 28 1881

Prof. O. C. Marsh
President National Academy

Dear Sir:

The state of my health prevents me from doing much scientific work, and from joining in the labors of the National Academy.

Therefore I beg leave to resign my membership.

Truly Yours,

Theodore Lyman
Brookline
Mass
Nov. 4 1886

Prof. O. C. Marsh:

Dear Professor:

It is very kind in you to persuade me not to resign from the National Academy.

It is a matter however, to which I have given proper consideration. and I am clear as to the propriety of my resignation.

Truly Yours,

Theodore Lyman
Dear Mr. March
Professor Yale University

Dear Sir,

I have myself of your visit to this city to forward to you the accompanying little pages of a book that I have in preparation for the press, relating to my projects of an inter-continental railway from Bering Bay to Alaska, these to connect with the Russian Asiatic system of railroads in Siberia and so with Japan and China. I have for more than forty years been endeavoring to obtain for it public consideration and action. After having it before Congress for fifteen years, it is only about two years since that any favorable action was shown to it, by conniving the Granitic Racial...
Commemoration to meet here and tribunal that make its collateral subjects

I would be gratified if you would be pleased to write me your opinion on the subject
of the completion of the work projected and the resulting benefits to mankind
by being brought with closer and

more recently commercial relations,

which I would attach to the work

when published.

It is now seventeen years

since Professor Joseph Henry wrote

me on this subject advising me

to make it the subject of my life

and I have done so-

Jean Deen Lii

with great respect

Mrs. Henry Higby

John B. H. Lynch