Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,

Washington, D.C., May 6, 1874

Dear Marsh,

I wrote you a note to Louisville on July 5th,

Can J.F. Morgan do not know as you receive it.

Please tell me if you will come via Washington on
your way to St. Louis, as I want to have a talk
with you.

Yours very truly,

S. Newcomb
Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department.


My Dear Professor March,

Your of the 21st reaches me at the end of a week's sickness which I have employed in working off the September malaria.

I would not like to express an opinion on the practicability of your plan because I know less of the subject than yourself and many others. The principal difficulty which strikes one is this, is it possible to make such a division that there would be no reason for the different surveys encroaching upon each other's work? Is it possible to have a geographical survey which can entirely ignore geology without inconvenience? Or a geological survey which shall ignore topography? If the topography is to precede the geology then you have all your difficulties arising, again to say nothing of the seemingly harsh measure of making the present geologists give up their topographers.
and the Engineers give up their geologists.

Now about the point on which we differed in conversation. I should think it very much better to have a special meeting of the Academy at Washington in December for the purpose of considering the report of the committee, and I consider it essential that the committee shall confer with the new existing authorities. I think you greatly overestimate the influence of the Academy as a body relative to that of the men who will be working against our plan in case they are dissatisfied with it. In any governmental or in a judicial affair, the first duty of the deciding power is to hear argument, and if he fails to do so and goes forward on his own account he will be pretty sure to come to grief.

Now of all the parties Haydon, Wheeler, and Howitt are satisfied with the report of the Academy if it will be well, but we have no reason to suppose that they will
be unless we find out beforehand exactly what they each will want, or be satisfied with. If dissatisfied the strongest argument with which they could go before Congress would be that the Academy had decided on a plan in secret session and considered the whole subject without allowing them to be heard.

An extra stated session of the Academy to be called by the council would not involve any extraordinary expense because no one would need to attend it except those interested in the subject or knowing something about it.

I notice that your plan says nothing about the land surveys which are also referred to in the law. These we cannot well ignore.

Yours Very Truly,

Simon Newcomb.

Prof. O. C. Marsh,
Yale College Museum,
New Haven, Conn.
Dear Musst,

I have just received
and considered your dispatch,
but have not read your repliation. Since coming home
I have been down with a
malarial attack, and have
now such a cough it is not
safe to travel at night.
So to go, I must take at
least two days for it. I
can hardly think it is
important enough for this
that I should be in
at your consultation.
You have Newton
and others who are
much better informed
than I am. Besides,
you have my views
both orally and in
writing, and if, after
considering them, you
reach different conclusions,
well and good. I shall
however, defer to you,
and if you think my
presence of advantage

enough to compensate
for time and expense
will gladly go on to

Yours very truly
Simon Newman
Professor O.C. Marsh
Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C., Oct 5, 1878

Dear Mr. Marsh,

You had better let me know as long beforehand as practicable when you will be here so I may arrange for meeting Secretaries of War and Interior.

Yours very truly,

S. Newcomb

P.S. You are of course quit fall to show
my long letter to
any or all the members
of the committee or
others who may be
interested. There is no
secret about it.
Dear Professor March,

I had an interview with Captain Patterson of the Coast Survey yesterday. He will make no opposition to our views but on the contrary, he is quite ready to take the increased responsibility. The subject was discussed substantially, as follows.

I began by calling to his attention the interference of three several surveys, the reference of the subject to the National Academy, and the necessity of some uniform organization, but without stating that any definite plan was thought of, or that I represented any one but myself. I said he might reply officially to my question that he was not at all concerned in the matter, yet I should like individually to know his views. The first inquiry I made was the nature and scope of his triangulation across the continent. He replied that there were several parties actually engaged in the work, one base line was near
Denver, Colorado: from it a triangulation was being extended Eastward and would soon be extended Westward by another party. Davisons was triangulating East from the Pacific Coast and a party in Virginia were working Westward to meet those from the Rocky Mountains.

I then put to him the main question in the form:

Do there any sound or cogent reasons why the geographical Survey of the Territories was not being executed by Hayden, Powell, and Wheeler should not be made a part of the work of the Coast Survey?

To this he said that he did not see that there was any reason except the opposition of the Engineers. They were a very powerful body expending annually some eight million of the Government money and considered that all the surveys should be placed in their hands. General Humphreys had maintained that even the Coast Survey would eventually gravitate into the hands of the engineers.

General Sumner has an appropriation for continuing the triangulation East from Winnipeg and South from Chicago through the State of Illinois, for surveying the Mississippi River, and for determining points in aid of state surveys, the whole being so general that he can go where he pleases. He is actually trying to cover the whole State of Illinois. On the other hand the Coast Survey would so far approach some points during the next ten years that it will have a large available power for extending the surveys into the interior. The great fight therefore be between the civil and the military for the conduct of these interior surveys, with the geological part of the survey he did not want to have anything to do except in the way of cooperation. He regarded topography as belonging to the geological Survey and not to the...
Geodetic one.

I then remarked that I supposed that the connection of the Coast Survey with the Treasury Department arose only from its being for the benefit of commerce, and that if it thus left the coast and went into the interior it would no longer have any necessary connection with the interest of that Department. He was at first slightly non-plussed at this suggestion, but admitted it after a very little hesitation. I then remarked that in such a case it would seem natural that it should gravitate to the Department of the Interior. He replied that its connection with any one Department was after all not at all intimate; that it did not make much difference what Department it was
understand that in such a case it was naturally supposed that it would go to the Department of the Interior until Congress should establish a special Department of Public Works. It must come to that ultimately because the survey of the interior, the erection of Public Buildings are constituted a class of operations by themselves which would ultimately have to be assigned to a special Department created for the purpose. I then left him entirely satisfied with the result.

Now respecting the committee, I remember that W. H. Kilgore desired that General Meigs should be on the committee as a man of great fairness of character who could fairly represent the military side of the question. He did not know indeed whether General Meigs would be most inclined to take the Engineers' or the civilians' side; for although he was formerly a member of the corps, he had no special prejudice in its favor. Now the committee as organized seems to have
As little of the Government element exist that in the presence of having an office of the Corps of Engineers I thought I should like to see General Meigs express what so I called upon him last night and had a talk with him. He came, however, while taking an entirely fair view of the case, rather inclined to the opinion that the Engineers should conduct the survey. He thought the Coast Survey should have confined itself to the coast and not have extended its operations into the interior, where the Engineers already had the field. When I remarked that the Coast Survey might be considered as approaching the completion of its work and that therefore the Government had here an organization ready made to extend into the interior, he took exception to the statement. He did not consider that the survey of the coast would within any reasonable time become an absolutely complete work; that it might to extend down to the Seventeenth, and up into Alaska, and this would require an almost indefinitely time.

As I do not entertain the fear of a minority report that you do, especially if a majority of one, I would be strongly inclined to put down either General Meigs or General Humphreys on the committee, notwithstanding his possible disagreement. For I think he is so strongly inclined towards the Engineers that he would not accept the logic of circumstances. Somewhat Oteger said, you will see that General Humphreys is out of the question, unless you are willing to have a minority report. At the same time I cannot avoid the belief that if the committee be composed mainly of Geologists, etc., without a single member to represent the military, the latter will have a much stronger ground from which to attach the conclusion than they would have in a minority report of the Engineers and military more on the committee, who had a fair opportunity of being heard. Therefore if I were in your place, I think I would put General Humphreys on the committee, perhaps as its chairmain, irrespective of his
views or of his minority report, feeling that
in thus having the Engineers heard they
would have a much smaller foot-hold
from which to attack the conclusion than
they would have, had they been entirely
unrepresented.

If you will apprise me of the date
of the meeting of the Committee in New
Haven, I would like very much to
present to it an outline of the form
which I think the report ought to
take.

Yours Very Truly
Simon Newboult

Prof. O. C. Marsh
New-Haven,
Conn.
My Dear Marsh,

I find I cannot well leave to-night, and so will not be with you to-morrow. I have however been looking up some reports and publications of the surveys, and have made some new memoranda on their past administration which, it seems to me should go into the report as a justification of the plan. I will try to send them to you to-night.

Can you not have our committee meeting
a day or two before that of the academy? I could then go all on Saturday or Sunday to attend it.

I had a talk with Secretary Schure on Wednesday evening. He had no personal recollection of your letter about the subject, and supposed it must have been referred without his knowledge. He goes to Boston to speak next Wednesday (if well enough) not to return till Saturday, so if you come on how to set him next week. Take Monday, Tuesday or Saturday.

Can't you come Saturday (to-morrow) and stay over till Monday or Tuesday?

As I told you, Sunday is the best time to see Schure at home.

I mentioned it him that I thought we would want his Dept to take a more exclusive charge of the survey, but he seemed a little inclined to demur at the increased responsibility. But, I doubt whether his objections were very deeply rooted.

Owing to having no news of your intended
movement I have not seen Lucy McCreey, but I think he is likely to stay here. Nor do you say whether you have written Lucy Sherman about appreciation.

Yours very truly

Simon Newcomb

Professor O. C. Marsh.

P.S. Ask Professor Let me know if it is worth while to make list of peaks it called by different names on the maps of Hayden and Wheeler.
My Dear Marsh,

Not having heard anything from you I enclose an envelope and a sheet of paper with several questions, most of them requiring only a yes or no. Please write the answer after each question, but the sheet into the envelope and post it for return mail.

I made a comparison of Hayden’s maps of Colorado with Wheeler’s, and it seemed
to me that Rigdons were vastly superior. Certainly they have so much more detail that any comparison of cost per square mile will be entirely misleading unless the difference was taken into account. I wish I had had both sets with me when with you and King.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newcomb
Washington Nov, 18

My Dear Marsh,

Hearing

some private business in N.Y. I leave to-night so as to attend to it to-morrow, and be ready to return with you after the meeting if you should desire it. I stop at Henry Drake's 271 Madison Ave, and if you are in town Saty or Sunday would
Like to know it. If I get an invitation I may be at the Century Saty evening.

I have just received the report which seems about the thing with perhaps a few circulations of a verbal character.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newcomb.
Washington Nov 22
[1878]

My Dear Marsh,

You may be interested in the enclosed by which it seems that Gen. Humphreys opens the fight by a sort of hari kari.

I have been more or less under the weather since you were here, and understand that Clarence King is sick also.

Yours very truly,

S. Newcomb.
The Geological Survey Squabble.

Why Gen. Humphreys Resigned His Position as a Member of the National Academy of Sciences.

Gen. Humphreys, chief of U.S. engineer corps, has resigned his position as a member of the National Academy of Sciences, and for this reason—Last winter there was some trouble about the appropriations for the various survey parties that go west every year. Mr. Howitt, the member of the appropriations committee who had the subject of these surveys in charge, made up his mind that there were too many rival parties, and that it would be better to have the whole subject transferred to one organization. He thought that the matter should be investigated, at any rate, and Congress, in accordance with that idea, directed that the National Academy of Sciences should examine into the subject and report to this winter's session what in their opinion should be done with the present system of geological surveys. The engineer corps of the army, represented by Wheeler's survey, warmly supported this idea at first, as they thought, as a matter of course, this could not result in a wiping out of the Hayden and Powell surveys, and that the whole subject would be left to them. But the Academy advocates taking the geological surveying out of the hands of the three parties to whom it has been entrusted and giving it to the coast survey, which is under control and direction at present of the Treasury department, but under the new recommendation would be transferred to the Interior department. The report advocates the consolidation of the coast survey with the Interior department, and to be known as the Coast and Interior Survey, the general land office to have its duties confined to sale of public lands, geological surveys and to operate under a bureau by itself to be supplied with its topographical data from coast survey. The corps of engineers is to be confined to rivers and harbors and fortifications, taking from this corps much of the attractive labor previously performed by this branch of the War department. The coast survey is made up of civil engineers, educated in private life, and has a very high standard. The President and several members of the Cabinet are greatly in favor of the coast survey having the work, and claim for it that Congress could afford to be more generous with one than three, and that duplication of work and waste of material would be avoided by having the surveys under one head. It is on account of this recommendation that Gen. Humphreys has resigned his seat in the academy. Each survey has very powerful friends, and while they have been rivals in the past they will now combine to fight the coast survey plan. It is hardly possible that out of all their fighting there will be much money appropriated for the surveys this winter.

The Official Vote of Wisconsin has been
Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, D.C., Dec 7, 1878

Dear Marsh,

I telegraphed you today that Report well received by Senate Committee. I have not had a chance to talk with any member since the report was printed. Before that they did not want to commit themselves. But Powell has been all round and reports House Committee.
so strongly in favor that they are deter-
mined to put it through in connection with the
Legislature bill making provision for the land
surveys. If what he says is quite correct
there is little doubt of the whole thing being
put through the House very soon. Then the
fight will come in the

Senate. There is where
we want King. Why
is he not here? Sen-
ators should be inter-
viewed without delay
because there is where
the enemy is no doubt
planning his battery
at this moment.

Want you write to
Chairman Atkins about
appropriation of $500 for
expenses of our Commitee
meetings. I am out of
pocket about $55, and the committee 
the committee resout 
make any objection. I take it if you only 
write.

Yours very truly
Simon Newcomb

I sent you 3 copies of 
Report. Have also sent to 
Frombidge, Roger and 
Agassiz of cancer.
My Dear March,

Many thanks for copies of report. The House document, containing accompanying papers will not be printed till perhaps the end of this week when I will try to secure you copies.

Until the report is printed no specious of mentioning the House are authorized.
I met Chairman McVine yesterday, but he declined to express an opinion till he had read a report in the paper.

I understand Patterson is lukewarm on account of the transfer which he does not like. But I think he will accept the situation for the sake of the advantages. I think on the whole, the outlook is encouraging.

I can't find out that the enemy has yet done anything but swear and tear his hair.

Will write again soon.

Yours etc.

S. Newcomb
Dear Marsh,

The newspapers reports that King is to be appointed are entirely premature and possibly set on foot to make his friends withdraw from the fight under the impression that it is won. Guert and Cape have been here from for Hayden and interviewed the President. He latter is, I think, only prevented by Schuylers from
tendering H. The appointment owing to the overwhelming preference of numbers in his favor. It is therefore extremely desirable that W. B. Rogers and James Porter should come on as soon as practicable.

The same remark applies to Newberry, who is now in Columbia, and has not been heard from individually. I had a talk with the President myself.

Last Saturday, and he mentioned Newberry as one whose opinion he would value. You had better write and urge him to come in person, as well as to write.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newcomb.
My Dear Mast,

The latest news I know of will no doubt be in to say Mr. Lincoln, that Mr. is to be reported favorably by the Land Committee. I take it that this puts his case beyond reasonable doubt. I hope you will stir up all your academicians who are not going to
attend meeting to send in proxies containing a full list of NOES, or for every name on the nomination. Thus, and thus alone may one defeat all elections of which the members present do not approve.

Yours very truly,

J. Newcomb.
My Dear Marsh,

The report was ordered printed by the Senate immediately on its presentation, and was referred to the Committee on Library of which Mr. Voorhees is Chairman.

A resolution is now before the Senate committee to print 750 extra copies for the Academy, which
of course will mean you as far as you may desire them. It will probably be some time before the painters take hold of it. I sent up to day to know if they could send you proof. The rough copies I send you by this mail. I have said all I could to smooth Barnard down, and hope he is disposed to look at the matter in a reasonable light.

I hope things will turn at requiring you to write me from time to time.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newcomb.
Office of Public Printer,

WASHINGTON, May 5, 1879

My dear Prof.: The House copy of Prof. Marsh's Report was asked for, and no other copies will be printed than those printed from House copies.

Prof. E. B. Newcomb

Very truly,

A. J. Davis
You see by the date
The mailly in all
night as you tell.

Telegram from
Hume Yoko

My regards to
Lettre de
Dears.

Yours,

[Signature]
Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,
Washington, May 7, 1879

Dear Marsh,

The enclosed note from Coffin explains itself. I do not know anything about the matter, but have an impression that it can be done. If you want it you had better address a note to the Chairman of the
Senate Committee on Printing asking him to have it done. I suppose the Gov. Printing office will do it, but may want authority. It will however be well to address a similar request to Hon. J. J. Beanes, Public Printer.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newcomb.
1901
Washington D.C.
May 6, 1877

Dear Mr. Stonecomb,

I notice last week that Sen. Anthony joys power to extra copies of Mr. Mel}
man's report for the use of the Academy. Can it be arranged
that they shall be put up in wrappers ready for mailing?

I am almost confined to the house, cannot attend to
matters as I wish.

Very truly yours,

J.D.C. Coffin
My Dear Professor,

The 750 copies of the report have just been sent me by the printer. I sent you 225 copies by express today and would like to know how I am to dispose of the remainder. You will see that they have been printed only as a House document.

Yours very truly,

Simon Newmarch

Prof. O. C. Marsh,
New Haven, Conn.
Nautical Almanac Office,
Navy Department,

Washington, D. C., May 12th, 1879

My Dear Professor,

I sent you the reports of the National Academy last Friday.

I do not see that we can do anything to stop Barnard publishing his report, unless we get out a writ of mandamus from some Equity Court. If he puts names to it without authority a different question may arise. I have told him however that I had no objection to the report if certain passages were
altered and certain others expunged. I do not know what book you refer to that he is going to publish. An idea has struck me which I am pretty sure will solve the problem of our Academy printing. Being required by law to send in the annual report of the National Academy I see no possible objection to the President of the Academy including all the members present in or read before it in full. These memoirs could then be published as a quarto volume without any question or trouble whatever. That is the way it strikes me and I wish you would communicate with leading members and see if they will not try the plan of having copies of their papers already to go in with the report.

You're very truly,

Simon Newcomb

Prof. O. C. Marsh,
New Haven,
Conn.