Washington D.C.
December 5, 1878

My dear Prof. Marsh,

I yesterday saw for the first time, an advance copy of the Report of the Academy, and I have also read an editorial in the Tribune.

I am pained and sick at the result. Having revisited almost continuously from 1849 to 1861 on expeditions...
A clergyman in our Western Territories, I naturally feel a deep interest in the
work; and with myself I know something of the
subject. Feeling, perhaps, that an investigation made
by experts could develop facts, I was
perfectly satisfied (as I
told you in our interview)
when the subject was de-
ferred to the Academy
with you in the Chair.
You may imagine the joy
my astonishment when
I read the report.
Now, my dear fellow,
I cannot bring myself
to believe that you indi-
vidually been join to
the bottom of this subject.
I cannot believe you
been given this whole sub-
ject that patient in-
vestigation which seem to
be required by the Law.
For my own part,
I believe this is the cal-
bination of a scheme
which has been a foot
for several years, first
by parties of different
interests to turn in,
out of our Territory,
and appropriate it
to their own use, and
appropriation.
I won't say how
this has been brought
about. - Well, do I mean
to intimate that you
are one of the party.
But since you are
smart enough to talk
with me (but a member
of the Academy) about
the Report and read
me an extract from it
before it was submitted
I feel then (since the
publication of the
Report) I should
be equally frank
with you.
I fear you have
been deceived.
I am hurt and
pained

Very truly yours

John E. Parker
Privy, personal

Washington D.C.
Dec. 13. [1879]

My dear Mr. Davel

You of course remember my note regarding action of the Academy, and allusion to possible influence of an organization that occurred in the law.

Now, I beg to invite your attention.
To the Agent of the
Last Annual Report
of the Secretary of the
Commission to Allude
Is that organization
You will find it in
the R. H. Tilton
of Nov. 29. Last
Column of Page 2.

M. C. Price
John E. Parker

Infantry condition. During the fiscal year it has not in operation thirteen new lighthouses, seventy-five new river lights, one new steam fog signal, and 11.2 new buoys, of which the last three are automatic signal buoys. It has discontinued six lights, which were no longer needed, and changed the characteristics of ten others, so that they will be more useful than herefore to commerce and navigation. The Board has continued the work of cleaning the channels of the smaller lights in the several districts, as well as to substitute coal oil for hard oil or illuminant, but it has not found an expedient to make the change in lights of the higher orders. Experiments with the electric light have been continued with such results that the Board has now asked for means to put the light to the practical test of a working exhibition in a lighthouse. The estimate for this purpose is committed to the attention of Congress.

The experiments as to the penetration of sound through fog made by the late Professor Henry have been continued by his successor in the Board, Professor Morton, with the results detailed in the appendix to the Board's annual report.

Coast and Geodetic Survey.
The report of the superintendent for the fiscal year shows the intimate bearing of this work on commerce, navigation and many requirements in civil life for river and harbor improvements, lighthouse service, marine construction and for engineering purposes generally. The records of the survey contain precise details pertaining to geographic positions, shore line, tides and currents, distances and directions, heights and contour of ground, the hydrography of tidal waters, and the magnetic variation in all the States and Territories. The results of the year include 20 hydrographic surveys, additional geodetic operations and topography in 55 sites of work, determinations of magnetic variation at 40 widely separated localities, longitudes and latitudes at others, and special observations on tides and sea currents. For the mariner the charts of the survey are marked with compass variations derived from observations directly useful to land surveyors in the interior. The survey having mapped and delivered the most important reaches of the Mississippi is represented by a member in the Mississippi River Commission as created under the Act of Congress approved June 26, 1879, to consider expedients for the improvement of that river. All previous commissions of like importance have been constituted in the same way, and it has generally devolved on this branch of the public service to make the most useful surveys. Economy in means has thus been secured by the employment of observers in readiness, and acquainted with all the details required in connection with questions of improvement. The geodetic work now in progress along the thirty-ninth parallel is well advanced to the eastward of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. In the course of the year the demand for charts has largely increased; at our seaports sales have more than doubled, and the volume of the chart and printed tide tables, are in steady request. With the annual reports appendices are given on subjects of special interest. These are constantly called for by the intelligent citizens, but the number of volumes printed has for some years barely satisfied for distribution to public departments and institutions of learning.