

COSMOS CLUB,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Friday March 15th/89

Prof. A. C. Marsh

Yale College New Haven

Dear Sir

The officers of the Comt & Geodetic Survey have decided, almost unani-

mously, (50 out of a total of 56) to ask the President to appoint an friend & former comrade Dr. B. C. Gould to the Superintendence of the C. & G. S. and he has signified his willingness to accept if appointed, while he declines to be considered a "candidate" (i.e., a beginner) for the position.

A friend of Dr. Gould, high in the National Councils, advises that we should have a resume of Dr. Gould's scientific services to the country & to Science generally. We know no better one than is contained in your address

to show the appointment from

to him when presenting the Wetherell
Gold medal -

Prof. Hall informs me that he
has not received it from you
for publication - Understanding
that Prof. Newcomb had given you
some points in the matter, I have
applied to him, but he says you
have all his notes. He advises me
to apply to you as I do now -

My personal friendship with Dr.
Gould goes back forty-six years. I
know I can write much of his
scientific career - But I recollect that
you set the whole matter forth so
clearly & well that it should supersede
all crude memories -

Will you kindly send me the data
asked for & oblige

You very respectfully
C. O. Bontelle
Chairman of Comm. of Opp'n -

1412

Coast and Geodetic Survey Office,

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 1889.

Prof. O. C. Marsh

The undersigned, a committee of the assistants of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, desire to announce on behalf of themselves and their associates, that they intend to ask the President of the United States to appoint Dr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, as Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey. They are practically unanimous in this respect.

We address this letter to scientific men of America. To such we deem it unnecessary to enlarge upon the position held by Dr. Gould among them. All know and recognize it. But there are some points which may not be so generally known, and these we desire to set forth briefly.

Dr. Gould is no stranger to the Coast Survey. From 1851 to 1868 he was attached to the work, and for nearly fourteen years was in general charge of all its telegraphic longitude parties. Between 1853 and 1867 eleven printed reports bear his name.

The first telegraphic determination of the difference of longitude between Greenwich, England, and Cambridge, in New England, was under his general charge, and he personally superintended the observations at the eastern end of the cable, near Foilhollerum, in Ireland.

Soon after this last great work of 1866-67, he left the country to found an astronomical observatory, and educate native astronomers at Cordova, in the Argentine Republic.

What he has done for astronomy in the Southern Hemi-

sphere during the thirteen years of his stay there, has been well set forth in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences at its session in April 1888, in Washington, when the Watson gold medal was awarded to him for his distinguished and successful labors.

He left this country at a time when the great work under the leadership of his chiefs and friends, Professors Bache and Peirce, had risen to be recognized at home and abroad as at the head of American Science.

He came back to find it suffering under sore and severe trial, and without a Scientific Head. Following the instincts of his whole life as a true Soldier of Science, he is ready to again buckle on the harness and become its Chief.

We ask your support to urge, as promptly as possible, the fitness and pre-eminent suitableness of this appointment.

Please address any one of the undersigned, at the Coast and Geodetic Survey Office in this city.

C. O. BOUTELLE,
H. L. WHITING,
B. A. COLONNA,

Committee.