

Madison, Feb. 5, 1885

Professor O. C. Marsh:

My Dear Sir:

I learn from the enclosed note that you are not satisfied with the wood cuts of the Eclipse-Report. I regret this as so much time & money were spent on them. The cuts were made from drawings made by the best artist in Washington (who does the finest work for Major Powell's Survey) from the original photographs: & carefully compared with these originals. No doubt they may contain errors, but I should think not any material ones.

The birdseye view is geometrically wrong, as of course, I knew. It however is copied from a sketch by M. Janssen, which sketch is the best representation of the island that could be found.

From the mast-head, these irregular shaped islands look el-

(roughly)
lyptical, no matter what their real
shape, owing to erroneous judgment
of distances. I think Darwin
& Prof. Dana explicitly refer to this
illusion - which is illustrated sever-
al times in the Wilkes' Exploring
Expedition, & elsewhere.

I mention these things that
you may see that the subject had
been considered beforehand. If
I had been in Washington longer
I could have removed some
small errors that I know of; but
I had hoped no serious ones re-
mained, & I regret it, if it is so.

Very faithfully yours
Edward S. Holden

Nautical Almanac Office.

Bureau of Navigation Navy Department.

Washington. Feb. 2nd, 1885. 18.

My Dear Holden;

Although I have received no commission to mention the matter to you, I take it upon myself to advise you that President Marsh is somewhat annoyed by certain criticisms which have been made upon the illustrations in your eclipse report. One is that the birds eye view on the frontispiece is entirely irreconcilable with the chart two leaves following; that by no possibility can the chart be projected into the picture. I believe also that the botany and geology of the engravings comes in for criticism but this is a point on which I am not exactly informed.

Yours very truly,

S. Newcomb

Prof. E.S. Holden,

Madison,

Wis.

Madison, April 15, 1885

Professor O. C. Marsh:
New Haven:

My Dear Sir:

I am naturally very anxious that our Eclipse Report shall be not only a creditable thing but also well thought of; & so I have watched the reviews of it. There is a very complimentary one in The Observatory for April 1885 p. 134; and in The Nation for March 26 p. 261 a writer has actually singled out the view of Caroline I. for special praise. I took the pains to ask the editors who wrote this & I find it was Prof W. M. Davis of Harvard. I do not know him, but from all I have seen of his work I should think his good report was worth having. I personally, am satisfied the work was as well done as the time permitted and I feel tolerably sure that it will be well thought of!

I am, Very faithfully

Edward S. Holden