

Presented to the Museum by [1857]  
Miss Dana, Apr. 6, 1936

To George Seabody Esqr 15562

My dear sir

scarcely ~~deeming a long~~ life  
have I been <sup>so much</sup> ~~more~~ gratified <sup>as</sup> by the  
interview - brief as it was - with which  
~~favoured me~~ you recently favored me.  
I had long entertained the wish to know  
personally, a gentleman for whom I had  
conceived the highest respect & esteem  
and you will permit me to add that  
your kind & conciliating manners  
removed any embarrassment and a  
very cordial feeling remains associated

Here I would stop with the most  
as every with which pleasing recollections  
prompted me to seek an interview had  
been gratified - but a ~~remark~~ few  
remarks dropped by yourself have pro-  
duced some thoughts in my own mind  
which I will venture to <sup>state</sup> ~~express~~ best  
should they appear to you of no im-  
portance or destitute of any claim  
to your attention they may <sup>be</sup> proposed

lay - even inflexible without ~~inflexion~~ of  
 discretion. The suggestion <sup>of yours</sup> to which I have  
 alluded regarded the obligation to do good  
 primarily <sup>next</sup> to those to whom nature and  
 providence have bound us by ties of  
 consanguinity and affection - and next  
 to provide for wise & good <sup>1</sup> results to <sup>2</sup> some  
 portions of your fellow men after God  
 shall have released us from our stewardship.  
 your own full & just appreciation of these  
 sentiments you have ~~already~~ shewn by  
 what you have already done and by the  
~~wise and good~~ <sup>judicious</sup> intention to establish an  
 academy of design so essential to the  
 improvement of the rising arts of our  
 country whether of taste and beauty or  
 of more practical utility.

Permit me then to add - as a subject  
 not without sympathy and harmony  
 with that last named, that we  
 have here in connexion with our  
 ancient <sup>but forming no part of an undergraduate</sup> university, a school of science  
 applied to agriculture, mining &  
 metallurgy - and generally the ~~useful~~  
 arts, not excepting those of domestic  
<sup>economic</sup> application. It began some ten or twelve

instructions

years ago without funds - but has  
 acquired the public confidence and  
 after losing by death a highly qualified professor  
 favor and has now several young  
 professors - with full <sup>in his place</sup> European and  
 American training in science & art  
 men of pure & amiable character & of  
 devoted zeal in promoting the cause  
 in which they are engaged.

A partial endowment has been obtained  
 for one or two of these professorships  
 but neither of them has a ~~fixed~~ full  
 foundation and one or two have  
 none at <sup>all</sup> <sup>of 25000</sup> One of our fellow citizens.

Joseph E Sheffield Esq now travelling  
 with his family in Europe - one  
 of those men whom a good providence  
 now and then raises up with wife  
 heads - large hearts & ample means  
 has contributed a partial foundation  
 for a professorship - has given a  
 large & beautiful lot - for a building  
<sup>at the expense of</sup> <sup>in</sup> the avenue in which I live &  
 we entertain hopes - not without  
 encouragement that he will carry  
 out his enlightened views by erecting

a suitable ~~local~~ office for a school  
 of Science upon the ground which  
 he has given. In the meantime our  
 young & meritorious professors have many  
 but slender means of support, and  
 several departments of the institution are  
 impeded or not at all supplied.

I ~~do~~ assure ~~you~~ that no local  
 claims favor any call upon you  
 - that your antecedents & alliances  
 of friendship & business point in  
 another direction and <sup>that</sup> nothing but  
 your known magnanimity & benevolence  
 and the favor of a good providence  
 which has given you both the ability  
 and the disposition to do good could  
 apologize for this communication to

with which no one but myself is acquainted.  
 Any aid, <sup>smaller or larger</sup> present or prospective would be  
 most acceptable & useful - ~~with~~ ~~without~~ designation of the object

but we should hope <sup>to have</sup> with permission  
 to acknowledge the service should you  
 favor <sup>that</sup> an institution in which I shall be  
 personal interest. I remain dear sir most  
 respectfully & truly yours

New Haven July 30 1857 B. Silliman Secy

- as they seem to be highly  
 attainments  
 - of the subject  
 - of the subject  
 - of the subject