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South Lancaster Aug 6/84

Professor O. C. Marsh -
New Haven -
Conn.

Dear Sir,

Will you please to inform me whether any action was taken at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Science, with regard to the Biography of my son, the late Dr William Stimpson, who died in the year 1872 soon after his decease there was a vote passed by the Academy to publish his Biography, and Professor S. F. Baird was elected to pursue it; but his duties multiplied so that he could not be thought do it justice, and referred it to Prof Theodore Gill, who was intimately acquainted with my son, and was thought to be as good a

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should be appointed, to complete it; but alas, before the next meeting Prof Rogers work here was completed, and he was called to his Eternal home. Prof Gill is well acquainted with the Widow, and Children, of my late son, and even a few weeks before the last Annual meeting, said that he was at work upon it, and it should be ready; but again we were all disappointed. I feel that it is due to his family, as well as to the Academy of which my son was a member, that this should be completed, and I have been advised to wait to you, to learn if any action was taken with regard to it. Any information you may be able to give, or any thing that you can do towards the vote of the Academy being carried out, will be appreciated, and gratefully received.

Yours truly H. H. Stimpson

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person as could be found to write it; he accepted the trust, and promised to have it prepared at an early date; but months, and even years passed, and although he still promised to have it ready before the next Annual meeting it was not done. I then wrote to Prof Rogers who was President at the time and asked him about it; he replied that it had been very wrong to have it neglected so, as well as many other things which he only ascertained after he was elected President; he enquired into the subject, and called upon Prof Gill to see about it; he shewed him what he had already done, appeared interested, and said it should be ready before the next meeting. Prof Rogers wrote to me that from what Prof Gill said, he thought it would be done, at the appointed time, and would be satisfactory; but if it was not done he would see that some one else

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South Lancaster April 6/85

Professor O. C. Marsh -
President of the Nat'l Ac'y of Sciences -
New Haven. Conn -

Dear Sir.

I had the pleasure of addressing a letter to you in Aug 1884, in which I wished to call your attention to the delay in having the Biography of my late son Dr William Stimpson published according to a vote of the Nat'l Academy of Sciences passed soon after his death which occurred in 1872.

I am still asked frequently by friends of his, why this has not been done; as I have not received a reply to my letter to you, it may not have been received, and I take the liberty to write again calling

your attention to the subject, as I understand there is to be a meeting of the Academy at Washington on the 21st of this month. I will briefly repeat what I wrote: At the time the Academy passed a resolution to have a Biography published, it was given to Prof' Baird to write, and he commenced collecting material to do so, but his other duties increased so much soon after, that he transferred all to Prof' Theodore Gill who he felt sure was not only competent from his long and intimate acquaintance with my son to do him justice, but would from his friendship for him feel interested: he undertook to do it, but although often expecting his promise that it should be ready soon, it still remains unpublished not only to my own great disappointment but to that of his widow and two sons, (the latter are both engaged in work at the Smithsonian), and of other friends.

I called the attention of the late Prof Rogers when President to this, and he called upon Prof Gill, who showed him the plan of the work, and promised that it should be ready by the next annual meeting. Professor Rogers wrote this to me, and also added that if he failed in doing so, he would have some one else appointed to complete the work; but alas before that meeting occurred Prof' Rogers work here was ended, and the Biography was not ready as promised,

This explains why I write to you, hoping that you would look into the subject more fully, and do what may be in your power to have the vote of the Academy carried out; will you please do this and let me know the result.

Yours with respect

H. H. Simpson