

Washington, 23 Mar. 90.

Dear Dr. Marsh, Florence, Italy,

I was much relieved and gratified by the receipt of yours of the 22nd February, on the 19th instant, just four days after writing you to ascertain the cause of the long delay. I was gratified also by your approval of my report. Your suggestions as to the statue I have read over with much care and interest and think I appreciate the importance and desirable nature of the aid and approval of Mr. Bowen — and the proposition to furnish, by his son, a plaster model within two years, in Florence, at \$1000. in gold — presents strong inducements for my acceptance in the relief it would afford from responsibility, and the assurance of a success. But the objections to this course are too strong, I fear, to overcome — 1st the time it would take to complete the job (at least three years), and 2^d the greater expense. The people have become impatient — and it is only by the assurance that the statue is to be done at once that they are willing to subscribe, and at that, we have got added to the old subscription, but some seven hundred dollars, making in all but \$2300., \$300 of which would be absorbed in the model, delivered here. Now I know that more can be raised, but it comes hard and all conditioned that the statue be forth coming. I wrote to Mr. Edmunds,