

Smithsonian Institution
Washington Jan 20 1852

My Dear Mr. Marsh;

Do not measure my affection by the length of the epistles I write, but immensely —. If I had a dozen hands I would keep one going all the time in writing news to you, but I haven't, and so I must be content with one every month. My business here is such an unvarying round of the same thing that I never have any thing novel to communicate, and I never could tell of the affairs of other people. We are getting along very well at the Institution, the Regents well satisfied and I think quite proud of us. The departure of Mr. Williard was supplied by Mr. Meacham of Middlebury Ct. whom I have not yet seen, as he has attended no meetings. The board has been in session for several weeks, and will probably meet half a dozen times before finishing. I hope they will raise my salary to 2000. or more. I am not very contented, but I think that any one who rises betimes, to the business of any body, and falls asleep at night over its work, averaging 12 hours a day constant employment in winter and 15 in winter, deserves more and earns more than for mere six hour duty from nine to three. And the worst of it is that I cannot work less time. The amount is too great, and my interest in my labors to earnest to allow one to feel free after usual office hours. In fact I am much worse off pecuniarily than at Carlisle. There I could make 1000 or 1500 dollars extra at translating with a salary of 1000, or half of which I could live. I now feel behind-hand on 1500. But I won't bother you with such stuff.

Mary in her letter, has told you all the news personal and local, which I need not repeat, especially as I know nothing of such matters myself. Our lectures here are going off finely, being attended by crowds every night. Prof. W. B. Rogers of Va. has just finished a course on "Phases of the Atmosphere" which has been well received. The sellernans