

Smithsonian Institution  
Washington May 2<sup>d</sup> 1852

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Marsh

Your most welcome letter of March 3<sup>d</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> arrived a day or two ago, and has been read and reread a dozen times. I had only to regret its extreme brevity, as a man in Constantinople who has nothing to do, might write more than four pages at a time, don't you think so? Still I fear I may not do much better, as I now write at night and shall probably finish the letter while asleep.

I know you will rejoice to learn that the Board of Regents at their meeting yesterday raised salaries of us assistants five hundred each; Jewett now has 2500, and I 2000. I hope next year they will bring mine up to his mark, and then I shall be satisfied. As to the occupation with clerical business, I fear we will never be able to get out of this. So much there is to be done, and so little money to do it with, that I fear we must ever be buyers of wood and drawers of water.

We are getting on well in the Smithsonian, although no commencement has yet been made upon the interior of the main building. The tower rooms will all be done in a few days, after which some plan of fireproofing will probably be adopted, and the whole rapidly hurried to completion. The active operations are progressing finely. Mr. Jewett's stereotyping promises well as he is commencing to work in earnest at the Catalogue. I have ushered two new volumes of Contributions nearly through the press, besides some others. My grand plan of international exchange is working like a charm. The German periodicals and the letters of societies are filled with enquiries upon