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Washington, D.C. Feb. 26 1870.



My dear Mr Marsh.

Your letter of the 31st of Jan. came to hand a short time ago, & we have at once taken steps to secure the documents you wish. Not hearing from the gentlemen mentioned by you, we have just addressed notes to them, recapitulating your desiderata & expressing our readiness to forward at once any thing they may be able to spare. I do not know any one who could be hired to make a business of gathering these documents for you; & if the gentlemen referred to, respond at all to your invitation, it will not be necessary to incur any expense in regard to it. You know it always gives me pleasure to do any thing to oblige so dear a friend, & one to whom I feel under so many obligations, in the kind consideration of a good life time.

Professor Henry wrote you, probably, in regard to the duty charged by the Italian government upon Smithsonian packages, stating that until the question could be settled, no further transmissions would be made by this Institution. We have had half a dozen boxes packed, since June last, with just the matter you wish, & addressed to all kinds of public libraries in Italy, enclosing not only our own publications, but those of the government, such as the Agricultural Report, the Report of the Statistical Bureaus etc.; but of course, we cannot ourselves afford to pay the duties exacted on our last transmissions. If, therefore, the Italian government is at all interested in getting this matter, & any other