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Washington, D.C. May 21. 1870.

My dear Mr Marsh.

I have been of half a mind not to answer a letter addressed so formally as to "Mr & Mrs Baird", neither of us knowing what we have been doing to merit such treatment at your hands. We are not accustomed to being called by such appropriate names by our friends; & I trust that if you care to keep up our correspondence you will take heed to your ways in that respect.

I hope you will succeed in bringing the Italian Ministry to their senses in regard to the Smithsonian Transmissions, & at the same time get them to reimburse the sums we have already paid them for dates.