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International Exhibition, 1876.

BOARD ON BEHALF OF U. S. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS,
 National Museum: Smithsonian Institution,

Washington June 4 1877.

Dear Mr Marsh. The books, advised in your recent letter, have not come to hand, but I suppose they will be here soon.

The State Department is "slow & sure" in its doings. It is not a matter of much consequence to us, of course, whether Italy accepts the handsome donation that we propose to make to her, or not. It is a short-sighted policy, however, to decline.

The work on mineralogy, which you kindly lent us, was noticed in Silliman's Journal as a work of great merit.

Nothing specially new here, except our responsibility with the Centennial accumulations. We hope to get a new building from Congress at the next session.

We are about packing up to go to Salem for the summer, perhaps Venice & Halifax, to be in attendance on the Fishery Commission.

Hon Geo. P. Wash. Very truly Yours.

Rome

Italy,

Spencer Baird