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International Exhibition, 1876. 8

BOARD ON BEHALF OF U. S. EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS,

National Museum: Smithsonian Institution,

Washington Aug. 27. 1877.

Dear Mr March.

I have just had from Washington, your letter, official & confidential, of the 1st of August, addressed to Prof. Henry. It is certainly a matter of not the least earthly consequence to us, that the Italian government does not choose to receive the privileges offered, of an exchange of publications, with so great an advantage on their part. They will certainly miss it, but that is their look out. Of course the few casual publications sent by her representative, will answer a certain purpose; but he does not get one-half, or one-fourth of the important & scientific publications of our government; especially those published by & for the Departments, not as Congressional orders.

I have been here a little over a week, in attendance upon the Joint-Fishery Convention in session, to determine the value to the United States of the privileges of free fishing on the Dominion shores, knowing Mary & Lucy with me, & enjoying the occasion very much. We are receiving