

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 13, 1881.

Dear Mr. Marsh,

Among the special exhibits that we are bringing together, in the new National Museum, is one of the building stones of North America. Such as we can obtain from every portion of the Country & of which the collection promises to be very complete, as it is based particularly upon the gatherings of a special census agent, of the building stones, & who has fifteen or twenty trained geologists visiting different quarries & collecting specimens. Of these, a hundred frequently come in, in a single day. They are arranged to be cut down to four inch cubes, each face dressed differently, one of them, however being finely polished. From present indications there will not be less than four or five thousand samples, perhaps more, of every variety of building stone. In this collection, Vermont is especially well represented, every quarry having its series of samples, & among them is a very fine block of Statuary marble from one of the Rutland quarries.