

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 1, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I have written to Mr. J. J. Higginson, but do not feel much confidence in getting a favorable answer. I delayed a little because his brother Henry has been ill. Henry is now better, and we may hope that James will discuss the subject with his brother.

I should like to have our other Professor of Forestry, Austin Cary, see your tract. He has been in the woods down in Maine for several months, but wrote me the other day that he might soon come to Cambridge. If Fisher notifies you that Cary is in Cambridge, perhaps you would like to invite him to visit you at Petersham either with or without Fisher. Cary is a man after your own heart, - one of the most capable, simple, attractive Yankees I ever saw.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Eliot

G

James W. Brooks, Esq.

C O P Y .

James J. Higginson.
16 East 41st Street.

New York, Jany. 3 1907.

Charles W. Eliot, Esq.,
President,
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Eliot:

Your letter of Jany. 1st is at hand. The tract of land owned by Mr. Brooks and me jointly is on the (so-called) Barry road- He owns $2/3$ of it- and I own $1/3$. How large the tract is I don't know. The College is heartily welcome to my portion of the above land-whether Brooks gives his or not. I think it a most admirable plan for the land at present is quite useless. Let me know when the matter is decided and I will have the transfer made.

Very truly yours,

James J. Higginson.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 4, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

I enclose a copy of a letter this day received from James J. Higginson. I think you will find it highly satisfactory.

Mr. Fisher has told me that you are getting on satisfactorily with your survey and valuation. He said that he himself had still a good deal of work to do in estimating the value of your timber; but that he hoped to finish it by the first of March. He also mentioned that the Petersham people are discussing your intentions with some vivacity. Are you proposing to take the matter into Town Meeting? I should hardly think you could, until you have arrived at some definite proposal in your own mind. Do the townspeople ^{assault} ~~inquire~~ you about the matter?

Very truly yours,

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.

L.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 5, 1907.

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petersham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I suppose you will have heard by now from the President that Mr. Higginson has acquiesced in your proposal regarding the land held jointly by you and him. This is very good news.

As to the capacity of the water power in your pond, I have consulted a friend of mine, who is an hydraulic engineer, and, upon securing certain maps which I am getting for him, he will give us a rough estimate of what that water power is good for.

I hope that the survey is progressing favorably and that before long I shall have an opportunity of coming to Petersham and doing some more work on the timber estimate.

Very sincerely yours,

R. T. Fisher

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 5, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

I agree with you about James J. Higginson—"with generous traits, his altruism is unique". In the present instance his conclusion seems to me entirely judicious and pleasant.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.

L.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 7, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

In a letter received today from
James J. Higginson the following postscript
occurs.

"You may not know this- that in the
neighborhood of the Brooks-Higginson
land and (I think) adjoining it, is a
small tract of land which I own alone.
This also the College is welcome to
take. The wood on it was cut about
1892".

Doubtless you know what the land is to which
he refers.

Sincerely yours,

G

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.

Petersham, Jan. 7, 1907.

Dear Mr. Eliot,

I am glad to know Mr. H's ^{attitude} ~~views~~.
They manifest his good side. I thought the ob-
ject, ^{roughly} his report for Harvard and the source of
the inquiry would secure ~~a favorable result~~ but
I feared the influence of "that damned Broke".

You observe that he refers only to the tract of land
"owned by Mr. Dowd and me jointly". It should
be remembered that he has an adjoining tract -
very likely forgotten by him - that should for va-
rious reasons be included and I presume would
be without objection ^{if called to his attention}. Such inclusion
in the survey. ~~His consent to this would aid~~
The jointly owned tract is as-
sessed as 55 ~~acres~~, the other as 32 acres.

I ^{shall} ~~can~~ easily keep up with Mr. Fisher
in ~~the~~ matters of survey and valuation and shall
be ready to speak to the point when I may ^{have reached me} his conclu-
sions. I ~~have~~ ^{mean} not had a word from
the Petersham people and do not think their interest ^{is great}
^{more than} curiosity to know what Mr. Fisher's ^{impartial} boys were a-
bout. ~~I see nothing in what we have under con-~~
~~sideration that~~ ^{seems to me to} directly concerns the town and should not
think of mentioning it in town meeting or elsewhere un-
less in answer to reasonable questions. The im-
portance of improved forestry conditions and methods and
the value, direct and indirect, ^{to the town and its} of intelligent farmers of expert
local object lessons should be apparent or easily made
so to sensible people. Yours sincerely, James W. Dowd

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

January 8, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Our last letters have crossed.
I enclose a note which J. J. Higginson
lately wrote to his brother, Henry L.
Higginson about forestry. Please return
it to me at your leisure.

The Petersham residents would
surely be rather profited than hurt by
the use of your holdings for teaching
forestry; but they might not all be
able to see that fact clearly.

Very truly yours,

G

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles W. Eliot". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

James W. Brooks, Esq.

CHARLES K. STEARNS
Mechanical and Electrical Engineer
88 Broad St
Member Am. S.M.E. Member Am. I.E.E.
Telephone Connection

Boston, Mass. February 7th, 1907.

My dear Fisher:-

I have looked over the maps you left with me, and made a rough estimate of the power available near Petersham on the Swift River, at the point which you marked.

I have covered a period of fifteen years, which is sufficient to take in any ordinary dry year. My figures were based on the rainfall at Fitchburg, the nearest point where rainfall records are kept.

I find that the driest year of the period was 1894, and the average yield of continuous power, that is twenty-four hours per day, for that year would have been in the neighborhood of 1.8 h.p. at the wheel shaft per foot of water fall or head (the increase in power is proportional to the head, so that if you think you can get twenty feet fall, the power would be 36 h.p.).

Of course, if the mill pond shown on the map is large enough to hold back water for half a day and the power is required for only ten hours, it would be possible to develop twice the power (or 72 h.p. at 20 foot head). Unfortunately, the average of the year can scarcely be realized without much larger storage for water than the situation is likely to afford. There are always periods of low water during the year, of more or less lengthy duration. For instance, in 1894, the month of June shows a yield (calculated on precipitation) of only .7 h.p. per foot of head (14 h.p. for 24 hours for a 20 foot head).

With storage ponds of sufficient size on the river, it would be possible to hold back the surplus water of some previous month, such as April, when the average yield for the month would have been 46 h.p. for 24 hours per day. To a certain extent the natural ponds on the drainage system and the ground with its underground reservoirs, provide a natural storage, so that it is probable that the actual flow in June, 1894, was considerably greater than indicated by the above figure, because it was preceded by two months of plentiful rainfall. On the other hand, the flow which would be figured for July on the same basis would scarcely be realized, because of the dry time in June. Further, it is well to remember that the driest month does not always occur in the driest year; for instance, in November, 1902, the average yield was only .3 h.p. per foot of head (6 h.p. for 20 foot head 24 hours).

It would seem from the foregoing that it might pay to develop this power for small industrial operations, such as wood cutting, which can be performed when there is plenty of water and discontinued without loss when there is not, particularly as I think you said there is a dam already in place.

An electricity supply, on the other hand, to be of any value even in a small town, must be reasonably sure of continuity, so that this power would not be of much use for such a purpose unless large storage reservoirs can be developed at small cost or unless the demand for electricity is great enough to warrant the investment in a steam or gasoline engine auxiliary to tide over the periods of low water.

It may help you in considering the situation, to know that you could probably furnish in the town as many as 110 or 115 lamps of 16 c.p. (the ordinary incandescent light) for every 10 h.p. developed at the wheel shaft.

Mr. Richard Fisher

-3-

2-7-'07.

You will understand, of course, that these estimates are not exact and only intended to give you a rough idea of the possibilities and limitations of the situation.

I should strongly advise the installation of a weir on the stream, when the proper season arrives, so that measurements can be made of the flow. This will not involve a large expense, and will give you information worth having when you want to develop this power. I will be glad to advise you about this weir when the time comes.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Philip W. Davis

Mr. Richard Fisher,

Apthorp Hall,

Cambridge, Mass.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

February 14, 1907

Dear Mr. Brooks:

I send you herewith the summarized statement of my valuation of the forest land included in the proposed college tract. The California and Maynard lots, being as yet undefined and bearing but little timber, and the lot southwest and west of Meadow Water and the Brooks-Higginson and Higginson lots, all of which, as intended gifts, were not to be included in the estimate, I have left out. The Community Lot I have put in, as you suggested, at its cost for land and timber together. If I have not got the value exact, you will, of course, correct me. I am also subject to your correction in my estimation of \$4. per acre as an average price for cut-over land. In making up the valuation for the pine, I have used \$7., rather than \$6., as a stumpage price on account of the considerable amount of lumber better in quality than box boards. As for the total volume of wood, it is, I believe, for the estimated acreage not far wrong. The combined valuation of \$78483. thus represents the present stumpage value of all available merchantable timber (disregarding cord wood as being of too uncertain saleability for such an estimate), plus the probable average value of the land without the timber.

If these figures enable you to decide upon a proposition, the President suggests that you and I draw up a statement of advantages derivable from Harvard ownership of the tract, so that we may have a basis upon which to raise money.

I shall look forward to hearing from you before long.

Very sincerely yours,

R. T. Fisher

Mr. James W. Brooks

Preliminary Valuation
of
Proposed College Tract
at
Petersham, Mass.

L A N D

Name of Tract	Timbered Area <u>Acres</u>	Blank Area <u>Acres</u>	Total Area <u>Acres</u>	Value per Acre <u>Dollars</u>	Total Value <u>Dollars</u>
Community Lot			850		\$ 5500.
Northwest Tract	344	140	484	\$ 4.0	1936.
Southeast Tract	<u>327</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>354</u>	<u>4.0</u>	<u>1416.</u>
Total	671	167	1688		\$ 8852.

T I M B E R

Name of Tract	Volume Board Measure (thousands)		Total Volume (Thousands)	Value pr M.		Total Value (Dollars)
	<u>Pine</u>	<u>Hardwood</u>		<u>Pine</u>	<u>Hardwood</u>	
Northwest Tract	3539	500	4039	\$7.	\$.	\$ 27273.
Southeast Tract	<u>5694</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>6194</u>	"	"	<u>42358.</u>
Totals	9233	1000	10233			\$ 69631.

Combined Valuation

Land	\$ 8852.
Timber	<u>69631.</u>
Total	\$78483.

Feb. 20, 1857.

UNION CLUB
OF BOSTON

Dear Mr. Eliot:

Prof. Fisher's estimate of the value of my tracts in Petersham under con- sideration for conveyance to Harvard College is

\$78,463.⁵⁰

and he ^{explains} details of what the es- timate embraces and excludes.

Two or three tracts, omitted in the es- timate but to be ^{contingently} included in the convey-

ance, raise the total to a little more than 80,000. which I think substantially within the margin.

The advantage to the College to be denied ^{its} ownership of this property it is not for me to consider.

My view of the advantage to me and to Petersham I may per- haps express by the proportion to call the total

\$80,000

and to give of this to the College

25,000

reducing the amount to be re-
ceived by me to \$55,000

If this proposition is satis-
fying to the College, I should be
glad to send it as soon as may
be, in view of possible negotiations
in the event of emigration - for-
malities, expense, & various con-
veniences -

In any event
I should like to have knowledge of
terms compared to those necessarily
involved in the transaction.

Yours sincerely,
J. B.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

Feb. 25, 1907

My dear Sir:

The season of the year is approaching when it will be desirable to have a meeting of the Visiting Committee on Forestry of Harvard University for the purpose of organization and consultation.

I write to enquire whether it would be convenient and agreeable for you to lunch with the members of the Committee and Professors Fisher and Cary, at the Exchange Club, in Boston, Friday next, the 1st proximo, at 1:15 o'clock?

I have written to Prof. Fisher to ascertain whether that arrangement would be convenient for him.

I remain, etc,

James W. Brooks, Esq.,

Petersham, Mass.

Charles F. Adams

Harvard University
DIVISION OF FORESTRY

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

March 15th, 1907

Dear Mr. Brooks,

In considering the details of your offer with regard to the Peterborough property, the Corporation has asked me for certain facts - especially concerning the question of taxation - which I shall have to turn to you to get. I will state the question categorically.

(60) 701

(1) How many acres are there in the California & Maynard lots, ^{Account} included in the sale, but not shown in my estimate?

(2) What is the assessed valuation of these lots?

(3) How many acres are included in proposed gifts?
A.H. 551710 - D.B.S. 150 (A. 200) 3000, 2.5.3.
11-11-132 250.

(4) What is the assessed valuation of these?

(5) What is the total assessed valuation of lands enumerated in my estimate (1688 acres), that is included in the proposed sale?
22,840
4,771.00

(6) Am I right in my impression that, except for the Brooks Higginson lots, the lands to be given have little or no timber on them?

I am sorry to have to trouble you for these prints, but you will readily understand the necessity. The President wants my report as soon as convenient.

Very sincerely yours,
R. T. Fisher.

Summ $\$ 950$

estimate from your plan (scale 20 rods to the inch) including the fifty ft. margin, on the East and West sides, noted in the agreement - The tract consisting of parts of other tracts owned by the parties is assessed, as nearly as I can estimate it at

1200

5 " ~~probably less than half their actual value.~~ ^{1950.}
 That the total ~~assessed~~ ^{assessed} valuation, included in the whole estimated area of (1688 acres)

Ans. As nearly as I can ~~estimate~~ ^{figure it} $\$ 29,315$

The Prospect Hill tract, 850 acres, being assessed
~~being assessed~~ for the part in Petrusham 4,775
 " " " " Phillipston 2,000

This I included, as you remember, at $\$ 6775.$
 its cost to me $5600.$

much less than the actual value.

6 " Have the Brooks, Higginson and other tracts
 to be conveyed donated little or no timber as there is?

Ans. There is considerable valuable timber

on these lots, assessed as above shown, at 19.50 ^{\$} probably less than half their actual value.

If my answers are insufficient, let me know in what particulars and I will endeavour to supply any additional information desired.

If the College concludes that it is desirable to acquire the tract under consideration, it seems to me important to avoid delay so long as possible because of those whose cooperation is needed. I got the accompanying agreement from Smith the day before he returned to California - I have the promise of Mr. Walds of his small lot that cuts into the N.W. tract and I am hoping to get Smith's fine Chestnut lot ^{next to} your own between Walds' land and mine - the two making, as you probably remember, and as the plan indicates, the only notch from the Tom Swamp over into the N.W. tract - Mr. Smith ^{who} is now in Europe is a man with whom I should like to be definite as to what is to be done. Another small tract under "Meadow Water" is promised and ^{can} ~~could~~ be had now but it involves

another old man even more senile than
 your humble servant and, if anything hap-
 pens to either of us, there would ensue the
 delay, expense and uncertainty involved in
 proceedings with the various heirs named
 as heirs, representatives and officials of the
 Probate Court, even if any one else could take
 the trouble which my personal relationship
 to these matters enables me, for the moment,
 to pull -

If the donor ever offers a reasonable
 chance, ~~for further inspection~~, I shall
 hope to see you and Prof. Carey here for
 any further inspection that may be de-
 sired.

Yours very truly,

Wm. D. Drake

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

March 21, 1907.

Dear Sir:-

I regret to find that your letter to President Eliot dated February 20, 1907, remains unanswered. The delay, as I think you are aware, was due *partly* to the fact that the Corporation wished to inform themselves more fully with regard to the property in question, and especially with regard to the probability of its being self-supporting. Attractive as the acquisition seemed to them from the standpoint of instruction in Forestry, they felt obliged by the present financial situation of the College to guard against assuming any new obligation that would increase immediately the running expenses of the Department. The careful study which Professor Fisher has made has convinced the Corporation that this splendid reinforcement of the resources of the Department of Forestry brings with it no undue risk of this sort, and they therefore feel able to accept your generous offer, provided that ^{other} friends of the Department of Forestry are able to raise the sum of \$55,000.

Professor Fisher, who, as Chairman of the Department, is chiefly concerned with raising this money has been authorized to seek subscriptions. The Corporation hope that early success in this undertaking will make possible an unqualified acceptance of your offer.

Professor Fisher has just told me that he has acquainted you with the decision of the Corporation as stated in this letter. I regret, however, that owing to President Eliot's departure for Bermuda, this information was not communicated to you more promptly.

Respectfully yours,

Jerome D. Greene
Secretary to the Corporation

James W. Brooks, Esq.



26 WEST 55TH STREET.

1907⁷
1908⁸

April Twenty. Third.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

It gives me
great pleasure to facilitate
in any way the conveyance
of your generous gift to
Harvard College; and
you will find my signature
on the enclosed deed, at
the place indicated.

Every true friend of
Petersham must feel deeply
grateful to you for thus
preserving forever its beautiful
forests; and I should like
to add my name to the
list of those who sincerely
appreciate the great benefit
you are conferring on the
town.

Judging by the weather
here to-day, Spring must

has risen to her feet very suddenly,
sliding poor old winter from
her long-suffering lap, in a torrent
of tears.

Alas, could I exert as potent
an influence as this wonderful
Spring, the young idea should be
taught to sprout at such a rate,
that my before June first, I
should be free to leave the dusty town.

As it is, I fear I shall
reach home along with
the fire-crackers and
Cannadings.

With kind regards to
your sister, and hoping
that you will have us
further trouble in completing
your generous purpose.

Believe me,

Sincerely yours,

Orin M. Bennett.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

May 15, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

I hope you received the telegraphic answer which I asked Mr. Greene to send to your invitation to attend the dedication of your new school house; but your letter just received makes me apprehend that it was not sent. The fact is that engagements fill the rest of May for me, and the first two days of June, so that I have not a single day to spare. After the 2nd of June, meetings come very thickly in Boston and Cambridge, and I am sure that it would be very imprudent for me to undertake even a single day's absence from home. I must, therefore, answer your attractive invitation in the negative for June as well as May; although I should very much like to accept it.

Further inquiry and discussion have settled all questions as to the expediency of acquiring for the University your tracts of forest, and we are down on hardpan. Can we raise the money needed to accomplish the purchase, so far as the transaction is a purchase? We seem to have fallen upon rather a bad time to raise money, the business world being apparently in a state of unusual uncertainty about the future. However, I have good hope that your beneficent purpose can be fulfilled before long. We seldom fail to procure a moderate sum of money, which is clearly needed by the University, and is sure to do good forthwith and through a long future.

Sincerely yours,



James W. Brooks, Esq.

P. S. Mrs. Eliot faithfully called my attention to your invitation at short intervals.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

Asticou, Me., August 10, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

It is entirely natural that you should want a limit set to the time afforded us to find \$55,000 for the promotion of Forestry at Harvard; and the Corporation will of course assent to any time limit which you desire to have placed on this effort.

Professors Fisher and Cary are both ardently in favor of the transaction, and Professor Fisher has interested himself very much to find the money needed to accomplish your benevolent purpose. I have also invited the attention of two or three possible givers to the project; but thus far have obtained no result. The opinions of Mr. J. J. Higginson have of course some weight with Mr. Henry L. Higginson, and therefore are an obstacle; but I do not find that he has expressed himself adversely, except as to the value per acre of the woodlands. He believes that a valuable reinforcement of Forestry teaching at the University would be accomplished by this transaction; and he also is satisfied of the singular fitness of the Petersham woods for teaching Forestry.

The next meeting of the Corporation will be held on September 24, and I will then bring your letter of August 7 to their attention.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

Aug. 13, 1907

My dear Mr. Brooks:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of yours of yesterday, and hasten to reply to the same.

You certainly are entitled to as prompt action as possible in the matter to which your letter relates. This, however, is the vacation season, and it is not easy either to get hold of people, or to get them to attend to business when you do get hold of them. President Eliot, for instance, is at Northeast Harbor, and not disposed to pass upon questions involving matters of business. My nephew, the Treasurer of the University, is off yachting, and not within my immediate reach.

I will, however, take up the matter to which your letter relates, and proceed to inform myself at the earliest possible moment. I will then communicate with you.

What you ask in your letter seems to me wholly reasonable. I hope we will be able to work the thing into some practical shape to meet your views at an early day.

Believe me, etc,

Charles F. Adams

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petersham, Mass.

53 State St., Boston, Aug. 14, 1907:

James Brooks, Esq.,

Petersham, Mass.

Dear Mr. Brooks,-

I have been meaning to write to you for a good while about the Forest School project, and was recently further prompted to do so by a letter which Fisher received from you, and which he showed to me; for although there is not much for me to tell you, I have been afraid that you would get the impression that the Committee was rather sleepy about the plan, if we not only do not succeed in bringing it to a rapid completion, but keep entirely silent about it.

We met, as I think you know, a few days after I got back from Petersham. It seemed then to be the opinion of the other members of the Committee that the first thing to do was to try for a large enough gift from one man to finance the whole scheme, and that it would be better for the time being not to scatter in search of smaller gifts. Mr. Adams accordingly wrote to Mr. J. J. Hill, of whom he seemed to have hopes, and I believe to two or three others, and I wrote to my class-mate Alger. Calkins and Cutler were to see what they could do among their lumber friends; but I am afraid they haven't done much yet. Mr. Adams has received denials from his intended victims, and Alger not long ago wrote me a very pleasant and cordial, but quite definite, refusal. Fisher has been away from town, but the other day when he got

back he and I saw Mr. Adams, and after talking it over with him we are going to try raising the necessary money in partial subscriptions. I should like to say that the Committee is going at this immediately, but it seems to me better to wait a bit in view of the way in which people's investments have been going down for the last few days and the fact that everyone who is not having to give all his attention to the stock market is away and ungetatable.

Since I came back from Petersham I have been tied to the office from Monday morning at nine until Saturday afternoon without interruption. I do not feel myself that I need go there again before undertaking to lay the project before anybody from whom a subscription might be obtained; but for my satisfaction and pleasure I still intend to go up there again and look over the Community tract; and when I have a good opportunity I am going to do so.

I hope that you and Miss Brooks are having a good Summer. If any definite way in which I can further or expedite the project occurs to you please let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Henry James

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

August 16, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

I thank you for your kind letter of August 12. It is very much the interest of the College to conclude the whole transaction with you and your friends, as soon as possible; but the condition of business, and particularly the business of bankers and brokers, is such that it is particularly hard to raise a large sum of money at the present moment. People feel uneasy, or even anxious, about the future of corporation properties. Of course this is very discouraging to you, as it is to us; but the enterprise which you started is so advantageous a one to the University and, as I believe, to the country, that I cannot doubt that we shall ultimately succeed in raising the money necessary to give it effect.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams writes to me enclosing a copy of a letter from you to him suggesting that the Mackay Bequest may ultimately be used for acquiring at Petersham the means of teaching in the best way the applied science of forestry. As you intimate in your letter to Mr. Adams, the claims upon the Fund are already numerous and varied, and the Corporation will feel obliged to do at once something considerable for the Department of Mechanical Engineering; but there can be no question that the income of that Fund will be fairly applicable to promoting the teaching of forestry, and I agree with you that we have in that Fund an ultimate resource which will accomplish your, and our, object. Mr. Adams, in sending me your letter, suggests that some tem-

porary arrangement with you might be made, with a definite agreement concerning the future consummation of the whole transaction as already outlined by you. May I ask if you have in your mind any sketch of such a temporary arrangement?

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

Sept. 9, 1907

My dear Mr. Brooks:

I have failed either to acknowledge or answer your note of the 11th August. You must not infer from this that I have let up in my efforts in behalf of your Petrusshan proposition, and the General in Forestry. On the contrary, I have been working steadily in certain directions; and, I hope, not altogether without result. Indeed, I have reason to hope that some influential parties are becoming interested.

I now write to enquire whether you will be at Petrusshan next week. If so, I think not impossible I will, either next week or the week after, take a trip up to Petrusshan, with friends, to look more carefully into the proposition.

We would probably go up by motor, and arrange to pass parts of two days at Petrusshan. We would require accommodations at the inn.

I remain, etc,

Charles F. Adams

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petrushan, Mass.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

Sept. 24, 1907

My dear Mr. Brooks:

In yours of Sept. 10, you said that you would like to know of the plans of myself and my friends, as to the visit to Petrusham, when they became defined.

I have now to say that practically our visit is arranged for the final days,--Thursday and Friday,--of the closing week of the month, i. e. the 25th and 27th. I am merely writing now to mention Prof. Fisher.

In spite of the intimation contained in your note, I believe will contrive to be present at that time. I think this visit may prove to be of very considerable importance, in the respect in interesting our companions in the scheme.

I shall gladly say no more to this end.

I remain, etc,

Charles F. Adams

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petrusham, Mass.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

Sept. 17, 1907

My dear Mr. Brooks:

Referring to my previous letter, and your reply thereto, I now have to say that I believe our visit to Petersham is arranged for Thursday, the 26th. My friends, of whom there are two, one a young lady, will remain at Petersham over the 27th, in all probability leaving for home on Saturday, the 28th.

Will you kindly arrange accordingly? I have seen Prof. Fisher, who will be there on the 27th. We will depend on you, however, to see that suitable accommodations are engaged at the inn.

I will merely add that the party will consist of Miss Ames, of North Easton, her brother, John S. Ames, and myself. Accommodations can be reserved accordingly.

I remain, etc,

Charles F. Adams

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petersham, Mass.

Adams Building,
23 Court St.
Boston.

September 30, 1907

My dear Mr. Brooks:

I write to say that our party got back to Lincoln on the evening of Friday, at half after six o'clock, and in very good case. We had a pleasant run down from Petersham, across country to Lancaster, though under a somewhat dull sky. Our trip we regard as in every way a success. We also succeeded in avoiding the downfall of rain, which would have made life uncomfortable had we remained over at Petersham another day. I am desired by all the members of the party to thank you for your courtesy and consideration.

I read with much interest the copy of your Address on the 150th Anniversary, which I found on my table upon my return. I wish you would forward additional copies, with your compliments, to Miss Mary S. Ames and John S. Ames, Esq., at North Easton, Mass. They would be gratified; and, immediately after their recent visit, would read your Address with as much interest as that with which I have myself read it.

I wish you to send these copies for the obvious reason that reading the Address will explain at once to Mr. and Miss Ames why you are so anxious to have this arrangement made for the preservation of your holdings in Petersham. Identified, as they are, with North Easton, they will entirely sympathize with your public-spirited desire to preserve intact, and for the benefit of the town and community, your inherited holdings in Petersham.

I was particularly interested, in your Address, by your description of Mary Ann Howe. It recalled to me very

vividly similar experiences of my own youth, in Quincy, in the ante-railroad days. There was a similar character there, resident in the old town of Braintree, to whom your description would exactly apply,--Miss Sampson, who died just about sixty years ago, immediately after the opening of the Old Colony Railroad through her native town. The type is now extinct!

I believe you have made to the powers that be a definite proposition, so far as the University is concerned, covering all the three tracts of land in Petersham which we visited. This proposition would necessarily indicate in detail area, price, your own proposed contribution, etc, etc. If I am correct in this surmise, no further action on your part would seem to be necessary. If I am wrong, would you kindly see that such a proposition reaches me at your early convenience?

This matter ought to be taken up and disposed of, one way or the other, so far as the University is concerned, at an early day, probably before the close of the year. My first object, however, is to bring it into definite shape in all its details: in other words, to formulate a business proposition.

I remain, etc,

James W. Brooks, Esq.,
Petersham, Mass.

Charles F. Adams

James M. Brooks Esq.
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

14 Oct. '07

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Mr John S. Ames's gift brings to a happy issue your project for the benefit of Harvard Forestry teaching and the town of Petersham. There is no doubt about the benefit to the University, and I hope that you will convince the town of the advantages which you have secured for it.

Mr Ames's letter speaks of your holdings to be conveyed to the President and Fellows as amounting to 1788 acres. Is this amount probably correct? He proposes to pay in \$15,000. on next Jan. 1st and \$45,000. in the course of 1908 in sums and at times con-

revert to himself.

Can you give me a list of the other gifts of woodlands which you have secured, including Mr. J. J. Higginson's promised gift? We want to make an announcement of the whole gain to Forestry and the University.

With heartiest congratulations and thanks, I am

Sincerely yours
Charles W. Eliot

P. S. We are under great obligations to Charles Francis Adams in these fortunate negotiations. The gift came through him as chairman of the Overseas Visiting Committee on Forestry.

Oct. 25th '07

TELEPHONE,
11-3 STOUGHTON.

LANGWATER,
NORTH EASTON,
MASSACHUSETTS.

Dear Mr. Brooks,

Let me thank you very
much for your expression
of appreciation for my share
in creating the Harvard
Forestry Reserve in Petersham.
Whether or not I came forward,
I am sure that somehow
your woodland would have
been preserved for the
University. So that I wish

to express my appreciation
of both your foresight and
generosity. Let me also
thank you both for my sister
and myself for the little
pamphlets on Petersham's
past history.

very sincerely yours,
John S. Ames.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE

November 4, 1907.

Dear Mr. Brooks:-

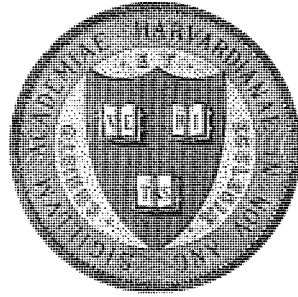
The President and Fellows of Harvard College would like to thank in one vote all the contributors of land to your forestry project in Petersham. Mr. J. J. Higginson has communicated directly with us, congratulating Professor Fisher and saying that he was ready to convey his land to the President and Fellows. Our Treasurer can therefore take that matter up directly with Mr. Higginson.

You are the only source of information with regard to the other givers. May I therefore ask you to keep in mind this need of our Corporation, and to send me the list of givers, beside yourself and Mr. Higginson, with an approximate estimate of the amount of their gifts? We wish to make timely acknowledgement to all the givers.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Eliot

James W. Brooks, Esq.



BOARD OF OVERSEERS OF HARVARD COLLEGE

To *James W. Brooks, Esq.*

DEAR SIR:—

I have the honor to inform you that you have been appointed by the Board of Overseers a member of the Committee

on Forestry

for the year 190⁰, and to request that you will accept said appointment. The names of the Committee will be found in the accompanying list.

Respectfully yours,

WINTHROP H. WADE, *Secretary.*

99 STATE STREET, BOSTON,
December, 190⁰.