

March 15, 1862 (Doc. 132)

132. TO THEODORE DWIGHT WOOLSEY

Smithsonian Inst^{on}
March 15th 1862

My Dear Sir

You have probably learned by the newspapers that you have been nominated, in the House of Representatives, as a member of the Board of Regents of this Institution in place of the lamented Dr. Felton; and I beg to urge upon you, as a matter of much importance, to the welfare of the establishment, that, should your nomination be confirmed, you accept the appointment.

It is essential to the continuance of the prosperity of the Institution that its management, as far as possible should not fall entirely into the hands of partizan politicians & and that, especially the six Regents chosen from citizens at large, on whom the policy of the Board mainly depends should be men of high character, above all suspicion of desiring the position for their own advancement.

Your nomination was suggested by a number of the graduates of Yale College, who have thought it due to the time honored Insti^{on} over which you preside, that it should share in the responsibility and honor of the proper management of a bequest, intrusted with full confidence to the government of the United States for the "Increase and Diffusion of knowledge among men."

Your election would be gratifying to the other members of the Board and I doubt not the position would be a source of pleasure to yourself.

I remain with high
Respect very truly
Your ob't servt-
Joseph Henry

President Woolsey.
Yale College
New Haven Ct-

Woolsey Family Papers, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.