

CUS417/100.99

Swire 19<sup>th</sup> 1904

REGIUS PROFESSORSHIP.

Note by G.R.O.

As we never paid any attention to birthdays, I was surprised to hear that W.O. would arrive at Canton Sunday morning, June 19, 1904. to be with me on my birthday. Revere and I were there on our way to Murray Bay where we had taken a cottage. Ned Revere drove Revere and me to meet the early train from Boston. A twinkle in W.O.'s eye made me feel something unusual was in the air. He sat on the back seat with me. Directly we started he thrust a letter into my hand and placed his finger on his lip to signify I must not exclaim. It was Sir John Burdon-Sanderson's letter suggesting his appointment as his successor to the Regius Professorship at Oxford. As I read the letter I felt a tremendous weight lifted from my shoulders as I had become very anxious about the danger of W.O. going on at the pace he had been going for several years in Baltimore. When we reached the house Mother was on the verandah and there was no moment for explanation. Directly we finished breakfast we went into the garden alone and I said "Thank Heaven, relief has come", but unfortunately the telegraph office is closed here on Sunday and we cannot cable your willingness to be a candidate". He reproached me for my readiness to leave America. He returned to Baltimore on the night of the 20th sending the cable as he passed through Boston, telling Sir John he would consider it, and discuss it when he reached Oxford for the B.M.A. Revere and I went to Murray Bay early in July. W.O. joined us there for a few days before sailing and promised me to accept the Professorship while he was at the Meeting of the B.M.A. From Oxford he wrote me he could not make up his mind. I received this letter at Murray Bay on a Sunday morning coming from Church. I went immediately to the Post Office - routed out Madame Rousseau and sent the following cable: "Do not procrastinate, accept at once". It was before he left England, and he cabled me that I might speak of it. The Canadians were proud and gratified - the Americans could not understand and expressed deepest regret at his leaving United States.

W.O. - men have run up for the night & the consultation continues through Sunday June 19<sup>th</sup> and all resumed Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> he went out to see Mrs. Adams in Buffalo