

Cambridge, 29 Dec. 1877.

Dear Sir -

Yours of the 24th reached me a few days ago, and it gave me much pleasure to learn from it that you are inclined to accept our invitation.

In reply to your questions, - I think, - and the chairman of the Literary Committee agrees with me, - that the subject you propose would be very acceptable. As to length, I think the audience would be best pleased to listen for about an hour; but this point and the manner of delivery are left en-

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tively to the orator. The Society ordinarily takes no measures to publish the addresses; they are sometimes published by the authors, as Senator Bayard's was last year - The addresses have of late been usually read, and many of them have lost much of their effect by that method of delivery; if you prefer to speak without manuscript, I am confident the audience would be both much more impressed and much better pleased - The audience is likely to be more intelligent than large; it usually consists of two or three hundred members and a somewhat larger number of citizens of Cambridge, - Professors' families and others. The place is the Sanders Theatre (Memorial Hall) -

Hoping to receive shortly your definite acceptance, I am

Truly yours

Wm. Channing Dawson

Clement L. Smith
C. L. S.

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