

AMERICAN HOUSE  
BOSTON.  
LEWIS RICE & SON.

R Hunt

Boston, May 31 1881

Dear Mr Dawson

I have your letter of  
the 26<sup>th</sup>. am sorry that I do not  
know where to find the regulations of  
the National Academy or would  
instruct Joseph to get and send  
them to you. I shall be back in  
about a week from New York  
& Washington on Sunday Eve.  
for two or three days. I enclose a  
letter in reply to our Circular  
which belongs to you rather than  
to me. The National Academy  
consists of American citizens who  
have distinguished themselves in any  
department of science. They are pro-  
posed one year by 5 members who  
must have personal knowledge  
of them after a year balloted for.

The rules are such now that  
The limit is practically 100 mem-  
bers & in truth is kept below  
the number is kept below 100 -  
There were but two chosen in April  
last. though there were five vacan-  
cies - and 14 candidates. The  
details of the mode of election  
are complicated. I hope that  
it will be time enough for me  
to explain to you when I return.

Very sincerely  
Yours

J. Sterling Smith

Principal Dawson & Co.