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New Haven July 31. 1882

My dear Doctor Davenport.

Your favor (of the 27th)

is received. In answer to your
request to have me make a "short
address as a representative member of
the Am. Association" at the opening
of your new Museum, my interest
in the subject would lead me most
cheerfully to assent. But unfortunately
I have no gifts or facilities as a

public speaker, and I should be
willing to do more than ^{add} a word
of congratulation in case a considerable
number of speeches are to be made.

I suggest also that after delivering
my address on the 23^d I shall be
officially defunct and the duty of
responding for the Association would
more naturally fall to one of the
9 Vice Presidents.

Regretting that I am unable to oblige
you in this matter, believe me,

My dear Doctor,

My truly yours

W. J. Bond

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