

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

KENWOOD OBSERVATORY

CHICAGO, March 9 1896

My dear Professor Tacchini,

I received your letter regarding Professor Rowland this morning, and as I know him very well I can perhaps suggest a reason for his failure to reply to your communication. It is of course not unlikely that he did reply, and that the letter was lost in the mails. I know from experience, however, that Professor Rowland writes very few letters indeed - in fact, I find it so difficult to get a reply from him that I have adopted the plan of communicating with him through his colleague Dr. Ames. He undoubtedly intends to acknowledge the great honor the Society has done him, but is so confirmed in the habit of leaving his letters for a long time unanswered that he has overlooked the matter even in this important instance. I am sure he received your letter, as the fact of his election to the Society was published in the last number

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KENWOOD OBSERVATORY

CHICAGO, _____ 189_____

of the Johns Hopkins University Bulletin. You may depend upon it that he cordially appreciates the honor shown him, and has neglected to reply only through some oversight.

While I am writing on the subject of the Society let me urge you once more to be present at the dedication of the Yerkes Observatory next September in the capacity of its founder and chief representative. No one appreciates more fully than I do how much all of us who are engaged in solar investigation owe to the spectroscopic workers of Italy. The volumes of the *Memorie* which you so kindly presented to us stand in a case near my table and are used almost every day. I have good reason to know how much I am indebted to Tacchini, Secchi, Respighi, Lorenzoni and Ricci, not to mention the other members of the Society. As we are planning to establish at the Yerkes Observatory a very extensive series of solar investigations I wish it might be possible for you, before all others,

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KENWOOD OBSERVATORY

CHICAGO, _____ 189_____

to be present at the inauguration of the work.
Could there be a more opportune occasion than
this to push forward the work of the Secchi
Memorial? There is certainly to be a large gather-
ing of astronomers (including Huggins, Christie,
Turner, Mills, Kayser, Young, Pickering, Rowland,
Hastings, Michelson, Brew, Keeler, and many others)
and I should be glad to do anything in my
power to assist you in interesting them in
the Memorial. I also hope it will be possible to
establish an American Astrophysical Society at this
time, and your presence would aid this project
materially. The matter was discussed at the last
meeting of the Board of Editors of the Journal, but
was left for further consideration at the next
meeting, which will be held at the time of the
dedication. All this is quite aside from the very
great personal pleasure your presence would
give me and all the members of our family. I should
hope that you might be able to stay at the
Observatory some time, and make some observations
with the great telescope. I have written to ask Professor
Ricci if he cannot come with you.

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CHICAGO, _____ 189_____

I have been at work for some time with the star spectroscopie purchased by Mr. Yerkes for the 40. in. telescope. We have attached it to our 12. in. telescope, and have obtained some fairly good photographs of stellar spectra. As you may be interested to see the arrangement of the instrument I send you a print from a recent photograph of it. It has three simple flint prisms of 60°.

With kind regards, in which the other members of the family join, I am

Very sincerely yours
George E. Hale