

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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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 Obser-  
vatory next September in the capacity of its  
founder and chief representative. No one ap-  
preciates 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 Obser-  
vatory a very extensive series of solar investigations  
I wish it might be possible for you, before all others,

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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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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