



Palermo, li 18 June, 1874.

My dear Professor Tacchini,  
After a pleasant stay of a few days in Naples, and a visit to Vesuvius, we went to Pompeii, La Cava, Paestum, Amalfi and Sorrento, after which we returned to Naples, and came to Messina by way of Reggio. He stopped one day at Taormina, and the next day had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Ricci in Catania. From him I learned that the snow on Mt. Etna was not yet sufficiently melted to allow the mules to reach the observatory, and also - to my surprise - that my new

spectroheliograph had not arrived from Potsdam. I immediately telegraphed to Toeffer to send it at once, and the next day, in Syracuse, received a reply that the testing had been delayed by bad weather, but it had been shipped on June 13. I do not know when it will arrive, but it ought to be soon, as it was to be sent by fastest express.

From Syracuse we went to Gigeniti, and then came here. I have not been at all well for several days, and the Doctor says I cannot make the ascent of Etna until I am quite strong again. This may not be before the middle of next week, and the delay of the apparatus introduces another element of uncertainty. He ought to go up the mountain, however, not later than June 28-30. I will telegraph you as soon as I know definitely what day we can start. I very much hope you can go with us. He shall be in Palermo

most of this week, and perhaps until Sunday, so if you reach here during that time you will find us at the Hôtel de France.

I have received a very kind letter from M. Dumer, in which he willingly consents to become a member of our European Board. As soon as I can see you again, and induce you to add such another post-script as the one which I am certain had much influence with M. Dumer, I shall write to M. Courm.

With our united regards, and hoping to see you soon, I am

Very sincerely yours  
George E. Halcy