

YERKES OBSERVATORY, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
WILLIAMS BAY, WISCONSIN

CABLE ADDRESS
ARCTURUS CHICAGO

July 8, 1897.

Professor P. Tacchini,

R. Osservatorio del Collegio Romano,

Rome, Italy.

My Dear Professor Tacchini,-

The Observatory is now practically completed, and we are able to make definite plans for the dedication, which is to be held on September 30th. In connection with the dedication we intend to hold a series of informal conferences on astronomical and astrophysical subjects on September 28, 29 and 30. The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Board of Editors of the Astrophysical Journal will be held at the same time. In connection with the conferences we are planning to have experimental demonstrations of a variety of spectroscopic phenomena, such as the effect of pressure on wave-length, the effect of a magnetic field on radiation, etc. The 40-inch telescope and other instruments of the Observatory will be used for showing interesting objects. I greatly hope you may find it possible to be present, and to give at the conferences an informal talk on your solar work. Some time ago Professor Ricco wrote me that he would probably come if he could induce you to come with him. I am anxious to have you here, not only for personal reasons, but also as a representative of the Italian Society of Spectroscopists. A formal invitation will soon be sent to the Society, requesting that it be represented at the dedication by a delegate. The work of the Observatory will follow so closely the lines long ago marked out by the Society that it seems to us very desirable that the in-

Prof. Tacchini, 2.

vestigations be inaugurated, to some extent at least, under the Society's auspices. I have every reason therefore for hoping that you may find it possible to attend the dedication, and to remain with us at the Observatory for some time, making such observations as you may wish to with the large telescope.

The great object glass arrived here in the latter part of May and was successfully mounted on the tube. We had a few nights of very satisfactory observations with the instrument, when unfortunately the rising floor was so seriously injured by the giving way of the cables that we were compelled to give up the use of the telescope until the floor could be rebuilt. This work has progressed very satisfactorily, and within a week we expect to have everything in operation again.

Meanwhile I have been very busy measuring the lines in a remarkable photograph of the solar spectrum which I found among the negatives taken at the Kenwood Observatory. There seems to have been some peculiar eruption which changed the Fraunhofer lines in a remarkable way in the region of ^a the spot. Many of the dark lines which are ordinarily present in the solar spectrum disappeared, giving place to new ones of different character. Across the spot two new bright lines were photographed, the origin of which I do not yet know. I enclose a print showing the peculiar spectrum and one of the normal solar spectrum taken a few minutes before the disturbance occurred.

My father has recently returned to this country, leaving my mother and sister in Paris, where they have been joined by my Uncle and brother. I was very glad that he had an opportunity to see you while in Rome. He and my sister greatly enjoyed their visit to the Collegio Romano.

Hoping to hear from you soon that you will attend the dedication, and with kind regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

George S. Hale

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- (2) Peculiar spectrum, taken a few minutes later. (Bright lines near marks x)
- (3) Second peculiar spectrum, different from (2).