

Holst, Hermann Edward Von

Gilman Correspondence

~~Folder 10~~

MS. 1

1.23-18

a
Brown

Balt. July 14/79

My dear Sir

Yours of the 9th & 10th

recd. On the day before the
latter came, I had written
a note to Mr Brown precisely
of the tenor of yours inform-
ing him of his appointment
as Librarian for one year from
1st Sep at \$1000, but I
afterwards sent your note to
him which no doubt grati-
fied him. I neglected to men-

have a notice of the appointment
for the newspapers which I
suggest that you should do
in your own way, sending it
to W Meyer, as I expect to
leave town on Saturday.

I have your letter
about V. Holst and enclose it
— it is as you see pocket-
book.

Yours of the 9th will be
gratifying to all the trustees
who may have an opportunity
of seeing it, and I shall

endeavour to circulate it. The
notice about Von Holst ap-
peared in the Papers, at
(and Bulletin Helvétique)
least in the American, and I
suppose in the rest.

I think we made no
mistake in that matter.

On Saturday we go
to Saratoga and regret
very much not to meet you
and Mrs Gilman.

Hencefore my experience
of Saratoga has not been
pleasant.

Judge Brown
July 14. 1879.

I am trying to finish all
Court business that remains
to be done, but have not
had a leisure day yet.

The Summer has, on the
whole, been unusually
pleasant, and we are all
well

Mr B. who is sitting
beside me desires to send
his kindest regards to you
Mrs Silman
and I am

Always sincerely

Yours

Wm. C. Gilman Esq

Esq. Hon. Brown

Miss Hunn is joining the Chesapeake Lab. Party Sunday
morning of the "Lady of the Woodstock" - except that the latter was a
miserable, the former was

Brown
Tuck
Brown

Palm June 30/79

My dear Sir

Yours of the 28th
rec^d. this morning. I have
seen Mr. Johnson and have
called a meeting of the
Executive Com. for Thursday
the 1st inst. when the
matter of Prof. von Holst-
can be disposed of, as well
as that of Mr. T. H. Brown

I will let you know
what is determined on.
I am satisfied that he
is a man of great ability
and power, as well as
courage. I should like
to have had a talk with
him since his Southern
tour, because I should
like to see whether he
has modified some of his
views on the Slavery
question which seemed to

me to be extreme at that nat-
ural from his point of view.
He judges of what was done
in forming the Constitution,
and in the strife of parties
since, not according to
the opinions then generally
entertained, or with sufficient
allowance for the difficulties
of the case, or with any reference
to the good actually accomplished,
but rather as an abstract
question of right considered
in the light of today. But

notwithstanding this criticism
I rise from reading this book
with instruction and with
admiration of the high moral
character, learning and
ability shown and shall
be glad to have him
in the University

I write in haste
with several people waiting

Yours

Very sincerely

Geo. Wm. Brown

Pres. Gilman

Bald July 4/79

My dear W Gilman

Yesterday my Const-
adjourned for the summer
vacation and to day is the
4th of blessed memory, so
I am comparatively a freeman.

The Executive Com. met
Yesterday at 4 P.M. all
present except Judge W.
who sent word that he
had full confidence in his
colleagues but was willing
to go for Prof. V. H. alst

could find entire rest, refreshing
Very sincerely Yours Geo. W. Brown

I read your letter and gave
my support to the nomination
warmly. Mr. Cheston fully
concurred. Miss Johnson &
Thomas assented, but con-
sidered the appointment an
experiment. The latter re-
voted his apprehension that
the Prof. might entertain
some political aspirations.
Mr. Gaynor's mind was
full of a law question on
which he and myself had
been talking, but he assented
without having any decided
opinion on the subject.

A meeting of the Trustees is
called for Monday for final
decision.

The proceedings of the

sub-committee (Mr. Thomas &
yourself) of the H^lth ^{Helvie} as recorded
in the minutes were approved,
including the appointment of
W. H. Brown as Librarian.

I will inform you of
the result of the Meeting of
the Trustees.

I have been reading
this morning the Programme
of Studies for next year
with satisfaction, because
I know that programme
at the I.H. means performance.
I think it ought to be
widely circulated.

The day in town is
just as Sunday and al-
tho' the thermometer in my
library stands at 88° (12 M)

there is a brisk breeze from
The West and the weather
to one to the manner born
is not unpleasant.

We expect the newly
married pair to be at home
tomorrow and in a week
or so Mrs B and myself &
the two girls will drift north-
wards, stopping as we expect
at Saratoga. Thence Mrs
B & myself will go to Champlain,
and the girls will return to
Babte to set off on a tour to
the Mountains of N. Carolina
with Mr & Mrs Croft.

I hope that you and Mrs Elman
out of the reach of heat & malarious
are enjoying much rest & refreshment,
tho' I am not quite sure that you

c
Brown

Baltimore July 7th/79

My dear Mr Gilman

The Board met to
day and passed the following
resolution

"Resolved that the Board
of Trustees of the Johns Hop-
kins University offer to Prof.
von Holst of Freiburg, the
appointment of Professor
of History in the University,
at a salary of \$5000 per an.
to take effect at the Commencement
of the Autumnal Term and

that Trust Gilman be requested
to inform Prof Van Holst of
his appointment."

"Prof. of History" was adopted
as the proper title, but it
was understood that the
Chair was to embrace, so far
as practicable and proper,
the kindred line of studies
such as may be embraced
under the head of Sociology.
This explanation however
does not appear on the
minutes and you will
consider how far it should
be referred to in your com.

munication

Professors Cheston, Guinn, Johnson,
Wm. Hopkins, White, King and
myself were present. W. C. &
myself advocated the appoint-
ment. W. King inquired about
the Professor's religious belief,
but I was entirely unable
to answer & felt that I
felt confident that he was
not a materialist nor a
Roman Catholic. Johnson
thought he had no special
religious affiliations. Guinn
thought we might be fortunate
if a German Professor had

any belief at all.

There were no negative votes
so that in that sense the
vote was unanimous. D. J.
came in after the vote had
been taken, but made no
remark about the result.

On my way home I
met W. H. Morris and told
him, in confidence, what had been
done. He was highly pleased,
thought we could not have done
better, and regards Bon Holst as
a much more original man
than Deiman - in which I
agree.

Yours
very truly indeed
Edw. Brown
Pres. Gilman

c
Brown

ack

Champlain Sep 15/79

Dear W Gilman

Doctor Shattuck's

note to you gives me an
occasion for a few lines
on my own part, and beside
I have to thank you for
the programme of the
Social Science Meeting
at Sacatoga. I shall
be at work then on the
Bench, so that I shall
not be able to be present,
which I should like to be.

I expect to be at home
on Friday the 5th of Sep, so
as to hold the Trinennial Court
on the 8th, ^{for Judge Pinkney} Saturday, and
shall proceed with the regular
business of ~~the~~ term beginning
on Monday the 8th.

The weather is so cool
here that we have need of
our warm clothes, and a
little fire at times is
a pleasant beside.

W. Auckland is to
sail for home on the 1st
of Oct. but I hope he

will be in Ball at the com-
mencement of the term of
the University, and I
shall invite him to stay
at our house.

I enclose a slip from
the "Sun" of Wednesday which
you may like to see - if
you have not already done
so.

We shall remain here
until the end of this
month, and then after
an excursion to Montreal
proceed leisurely homewards

Our girls write enthu-
siastic accounts of the

... Judge Brown.

Beautiful scenery of the
Mountains of N Carolina
and have met very pleasant
people, and accommodations
sufficiently good to

Time passes rapidly
and pleasantly here at the
very quietly. I have
been reading with much
pleasure Henry Adams'
life of Gallatin - it is an
excellent piece of work, written
from the inside. Excellent, on
the whole, as von Holst's work is,
it is written from the outside

Mrs B. joins me in kindest
regards to you & Mrs Gilman

Yours always
W. C. Gilman & Geo. Wm. Brown

^{C. Holst}
President Sam. C. Julian,

Freiburg, Aug. 12, '79.

Duplicate.

My dear Sir,

Alia jacta, est. What I alluded to in my last letter (Aug. 8th) as a possibility has become a reality. In a delicate, but yet very pointed way the government has urged the claims it has upon my gratitude. I had to acknowledge that it had a right to do so, but I nevertheless refused to accept its propositions. The position taken by the government however forced me to submit to its counter-propositions, and now a despatch informs me that they have been accepted.

I have been so deeply impressed by all the kindness and, experienced during my sojourn in Baltimore, and I appreciate so highly the honor you and the Trustees have conferred upon me by the call to your University, that I must ask permission to add a few words. I owe it as well to you and to them as to myself to show that my decision has not been taken lightly and that it is mingled with sincere and great regrets.

If the call had not been received immediately after my return from America, I would not have entered upon any negotiations at all with the government, but simply accepted

the call. And the determining reason for acting thus would not have been the material advantages, though, as I have no fortune of my own, it is no small consideration that even now my salary here will not be quite a fourth of that offered by the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins. I would have considered it a duty to science, for the main task of my life as a scholar and writer is to remain the study of the history and the institutions of the United States, and every body can understand how much better my opportunities would have been in this respect in Baltimore than anywhere in Europe, and especially than here. But the fact that I had just enjoyed leave of absence for a whole year, drawing all the while my full salary, put me under a strong moral obligation towards the government. I was, though not legally, yet morally bound to give it a chance to keep me here. All parties concerned showed a determined will to avail themselves of this chance. The faculty, by unanimous resolution, requested the government to make the greatest exertions, and the government, without a moment's hesitation, has fully responded to this request, for, though it is, in comparison to what was offered by you, but very little what I get, yet I must acknowledge

that, situated as we here are, the government has done the most it could do.

Candor, however, requires me to add that yet another consideration has had considerable weight with me. Here my professorship is a life-tenure. If I should physically or mentally become incapacitated to attend to my duties the State would be bound to go on paying me my salary to the last day of my life, and when I die my widow draws a pension during her life-time. Even my wife - though the chance of returning to her native country was of course very attractive to her - could not help acknowledging that my duty towards her and towards our children forced me to let this go far in counterbalancing the offer of a fourfold salary. Yet I had resolved to run the risk involved in the possibility of death before my time, if the government should prove itself to be comparatively indifferent as to my going or staying. The first-mentioned consideration alone has been the decisive weight in the scales. I can say that I have not chosen at all; under the peculiar circumstances I could exercise my free will only to a very limited extent.

and I might say that the decision has been forced upon
me.

You would confer a favor upon me by com-
municating this letter to the Trustees.

Yours very truly

J. H. Hoest.

Wash. Febr. 4. '79.

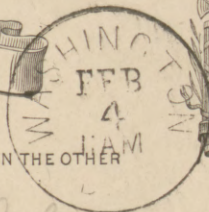
Dear Sir.

I write in the Post Office, you will therefore excuse this most informal way. I requested Dr. Reuling to let you know my address. But as I hear from my friends in New York that they have forwarded, under your address, two letters from my wife, I deem it safer to inform you directly of my whereabouts: 601. 13th Str. corner of E. Str.

Please give my compliments to Mrs. Gilman.

Yours very truly
J. F. Holst.

1/20/01



WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE - THE MESSAGE ON THE OTHER

President D. C. Gilman

Baltimore

Johns Hopkins University.

Ludwig Trape 24.

Freiburg, Aug. 3, '83.

My dear Sir,

Unless you are able and willing to change your plans - which I have no right either to demand or expect - I shall be deprived of the pleasure of bidding you a hearty welcome in Freiburg. On Sunday evening I must leave Freiburg in order to reach Bremen in time for the steamer which is to take the guests of the Northern Pacific Railroad to New York. I would have written to you that I had received an invitation and accepted it, if I had not got it but about 10 days ago. On the return trip from the Pacific Baltimore is to be visited, and I hope that by that time - I suppose towards the end of September - you will have returned, so that I may have a chance of meeting you there, if I cannot offer you the hospitalities of my own house. - I would recommend you to go to the Hôtel Victoria, which is also quite near the station, more quiet and boasts of having a better cook. It is certainly not dearer than the Löcheringer Hof, rather a little cheaper, if there is any difference. If there is yet a possibility of seeing you here, if also but for a moment, please notify me. Mrs. von Holst will, at all events, be very glad to see you and Mrs. Gilmann, and, of course, also the young ladies, in case they accompany you. Yours truly, H. Holst.

✓
Holt



DEUTSCHE REICHSPOST

POSTKARTE.



An

Hon. Dr. C. Gilman

President of Johns Hopkins University

in Heidelberg

Hôtel Prinz Karl

ack
C
Angus, J. K.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

President's Office.

ANN ARBOR, Oct. 13

1885.

My dear President.

It has been anticipated
here that Professor von Holtz
would take an appointment
in an American Institution.

You must have seen
much of him. I have never
met him.

Will you kindly inform
me whether he is so
free from German

Eigenthümlichkeiten that
he can work comfortably
and allow others to work
comfortably in an Ameri-
can University. Is he
so intensely Deutsch in
his personal habits &
bearing that he would
be objectionable? Has
he power of adaptation
to the requirements
which must be made
of Professors even in

a University organized on
as free-working a plan
as this? In short, is it
desirable to put him
in one of our historical
chairs? Of course, if
his ability & learning
then is no need to
ask.

I trust the year is
opening well with you.
The number of our
newcomers in the

Lib. Dept - and also the num.
in coming from other at.
lyrs - are altogether un-
precedented.

Yours very truly
James D. Rogers

Ernest Gilman
James Hopkins Esq?

Angell, J. R.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

President's Office.

ANN ARBOR,

Oct. 23

1885.

My dear President:

Your very kind reply to
my request was received.

You remarked that your
acquaintance with our
social and religious re-
quirements was so re-
stricted that you could
not well advise about the
College.

In the Chair of History
the work may lie and

often does lie so close to
Ethics, that I should
not wish a pessimist
or an agnostic or a
man disposed to be
more critical of
Christian views of hu-
manity or of Chris-
tian principles, I
should not want a
man who must
not make his his-
torical judgments

and interpretations
from a Christian stand-
point.

What about the
Bible in this regard?

I want from you more
to my mind.

Yours very truly
James D. Myall
P.S. I use the term Christian in a
general & Catholic sense.
Ernest Gilman.

2
Sulman

D. C. F. to Judge Geo. W. Brown.

Pemilton Mass^{ts} July 9th 79

My dear Sir.

I have received your three notes in respect to Von Holst: - the last. last Eng. Each of the former ones implied more information to come, - and I have on that account delayed acknowledgement of their receipt. I will also admit that I did not wish to seem to urge the appointment which has been made. I see clearly some of the possible and some of the actual objections to it, - but on the whole it seems to me wise, and I am very glad that the trustees have acted unanimously in respect to it, - and without any pressure. There can be no doubt of the learning, vigor, honesty and earnestness of Dr Von Holst. He is a man of mark in his department, like Sylvester, both in this country and in ~~Europe~~ Germany; and he is likely to be more and more remarkable, for growth and progress are a part of his nature. I think he will often say what it is not pleasant to hear: - but he will not speak as a partisan or as a belligerent and there is a cool and

good-natured honesty about his convictions which make them instructive and valuable even when they are not completely satisfactory.

I am confident that he will be of great value in our circle by showing how to study historical and kindred questions by a scientific method. He will not only do this but will teach the art to others. He will incite young men to seek for and detect the truth by orderly and thorough habits of investigation. It will take him a few years to become wonted to our ways but he has a good deal of the power of adaptation and has long been resident here. I shall be greatly disappointed if he does ^{not} draw around him in the course of two years a company of bright and enthusiastic young scholars, - and if so the number will steadily increase.

When I go away from Baltimore & think over our work, and recall the various letters of enquiry which have been received and hear the comments of comparative strangers I am more and more impressed with the value to us, of men of acknowledged eminence. Our American colleges are

full of good men, - earnest industrious, faithful and talented teachers; but the number of those who rise above local distinction is very small: the number of those who add anything to their science is smaller still. There can be no doubt - that Holst if he joins us will be recognized at once as one of the gifted few.

Sylvester Gildersleeve Rowland and Remsen are teachers who draw around them students of high aims; and when all our departments are ^{guided} ~~taught~~ by men of equal intellectual vigor and renown the young men of the country will not fail to accept the opportunities which are offered to them

July 9. 79

wrote to Holst communicating the Resolution of the Trustees
adding an expression of my earnest hope that he
will accept

Concordance

de Vorholz

Letter from

Judge Brown

Answer

C
Belmont

N. Y. June 28. 79

My dear Sir

Saw Dr. v. Holst last eve? & had a long talk with him. He is ⁱⁿ nearly the same attitude as when I saw him in Washington, preferring to have no formal proposition till he reaches his home, & uncertain as to what "the government" will say about his leaving Baden. But his whole bearing seemed to me to indicate on the whole a desire to accept a call to Baltimore. We talked over the possibilities of what he could do among us freely and all my previous impressions of his character were confirmed.

It seems to me important that the Exec. Comm. should say finally whether a proposal shall be made to him. Dr. Holst said that if it was

desirable for him to come this next
autumn, - he ought to receive his
invitation before Aug. 1. He sails
on Thursday next. I encouraged
him to expect that he would
either receive a call prior to
Aug. 1, - or that the whole subject
would be dropped. The basis of
our negotiation has been a salary
of \$5000. - Would it not be well
for the Spec. Comm. (or the Board) to
meet & conclude this matter.

My own opinion is that Dr
Holst would add much to the
renewal of J.H.U.

I am, dear Sir,

Very truly yours

D. B. Gismar

Princeton, Mass

Judge Brown

of the Comm. meet, formal action
might also be taken in respect

to W. H. Brown as

Librarian -

(see minutes of Spec. Comm)

D. C. Gilman

To Judge Brown

N. Y. June 28. 79.

^c
Gilman

Dr. Von Holst,

Nov. 22. 1880.

In reply to yours of Oct. 16, which has just reached me, I will send a copy of the letter mailed to you sometime since, by which you will see that with great reluctance it was thought best not to reopen at present the question of inducing you to come here. We have since turned to Judge Cooley and are awaiting his response to our overtures, - though if he comes, it will not be as professor of History, - but as Professor of Jurisprudence, or of Constitutional Law. I can reassure you that it was with great regret that I wrote the enclosed letter. Your persistence in literary work, with domestic as well as personal interruptions, excites my admiration, and it would my surprise were it not that adversities always bring out your vitality and strength.

Copy.

G.B.G.

D.B. Gilman.

C
Hilman

Johns Hopkins University,

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.

Baltimore, Oct. 25. 1880.

Dear Sir,

I have shown your letter of Sept. 17 to some of the members of the Executive Committee, and they are of opinion that the Board of Trustees will hesitate to renew the overtures made to you in the early summer and declined because of your ill-health. They are disappointed, for they had hoped, - some of them earnestly, - that you could be persuaded to join us. But we have no pension system, and our staff is so small as to call for a great deal of work from every one who joins it; so on your account as well as on ours, they doubt whether it would be wise for you to reopen the negotiation.

Johns Hopkins University.

Baltimore, Oct. 25. 1880

With sincere regret that our over-
tures have been unexpectedly thwarted
by that which neither party could
control, and with earnest hopes that
your career as an historian may be
as long as it is honorable,

I am, &c

(Copy.

J. R. Ball)

D. C. Gilman.

Do. von Ralet.

✓
Bulman

"We continually regret that you did not
in the way to cast in your lot among
us - We have made no overtures to
any one else - or it has contin^d to do
expec^t work in his position as a spouse.
Dr Scott has sin in respect to far. We
are waiting for light" re re

Mich 30. 80 W D Holst

Letter

to

Walter

✓
1 Holst

President Dan. C. Gilman.

Gulby
[1879?]

My dear Sir,

I only write in order to let you know, that I have thus far not been able to advance a single step towards a decision. An unfortunate combination of circumstances causes a delay which cannot be more unwelcome to you than it is to me. If your first letter had not been lost, the information would have reached me just early enough to find yet everybody in Karlsruhe. Now not only the Grand-Duke is in England, but - and that is of much more importance - also the Director of the Oberschulrath has left the capital and enjoys

his vacations in Baden-Baden. The latter fact I learned only last night, and but a few minutes ago I have learned, that he has at least received my letter and is now in correspondence with the Minister of the Interior with regard to the question. I do all I can to hasten the decision, for this state of uncertainty is anything but agreeable to either me or my wife. As to what the decision is likely to be, I can only state, that the Faculty has unanimously resolved to request the government to do its best to keep me, and that the Director of the Oberschulrath has telegraphed he trusts that he will be able to do so. As I have no idea what proposition he is going to make, I myself

am just as far as I was in the first moment, ^{the weight of} except that the more I reflect, the more I feel the reasons on both sides. Pardon the silly remark, that every ^{day} my wish grows stronger that I could do both - stay here and join you. The government has a strong weapon, but I do not know whether it is aware of it and, if so, whether it intends to use it with vigor. If it strongly urges that gratitude should forbid my going just now, after I have had leave of absence for a whole year while drawing all the while my full salary, I shall have a hard stand not to be pressed to the wall.

In case I should come, I intend to sail in the beginning of September. But perhaps it will be absolutely impossible to do so. You and the Trustees will understand, that it is no easy thing to completely break up a household at

is short a notice. I have to sell all my furniture, to sell or to dispose in some other way of my house, to make out a catalogue of all the books I would absolutely need for my duties and to get them sent from Leipzig, etc., etc. But at all events I would leave at the latest by the middle of September. And if I should thus be forced to commence my lectures a little later than the rest of the Professors, I trust you and the Trustees would excuse that in consideration of the peculiar circumstances. Should Freiburg finally "kick the beam", I shall send you simultaneously with the decision my programme for the next academic year, so that you could publish it without further delay.

Yours very truly
H. Holst.

^c
Holst
New York, June 20, '79.
215 E. 15th St.

Pres. Dan. C. Gilman.

My dear Sir,

I telegraphed yesterday because your note of last Monday has not been received. If a personal interview be still desirable and you can spare the time for a meeting, please inform me beforehand, when and where I shall call on you next Thursday. To come to my lodgings without previous notice would most likely be useless, for I have so much to do in these last days that I am hardly ever at home, except quite early in the morning.

Yours very truly

J. F. Holst.

Holst

Freiburg, May 11, 1881.

President D. C. Gilman.

My dear Sir,

I have spent the Easter vacation in London, collecting materials for the 4th volume of my constitutional history, and since my return I have been ~~not~~ very busy by the lecture and all sorts of other things. You will, therefore, kindly excuse that I have not long ago thanked you for the article on Francis Lieber in the International Review. I have besides to express my thanks for having been thus far kept informed about the doings and the progress of the Johns Hopkins. Though not of much importance, it may be of interest to you to hear that, a few days ago, in a Doctor examination, our professor of Physics devoted several minutes to the researches of Professor Rowland. - I am quite disappointed not to have heard, or rather seen, anything from your young historians since my return from America. For their own sake and for the reputation of the University they ought to use the printer a little more busy, than they seem to do. Can't Dr. H. B. Adams afford to do - at least for some years - without any courses outside of Baltimore? His first trial was promising. I wish you would spur his ambition a little.

I hope the next University Circular will inform me, that Judge Cooley has accepted your proposition and will commence his lectures this fall.

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Gilman and believe me

truly yours

Yr. L. & C. T.)

^c
Suliman

Copy. Princeton, Mass

July 31. 1880.

My dear Dr. Von Holst,

Your letter, of July 11,

has just reached me in my
summer resort far away
from my colleagues. I am
truly sorry to receive it, -
sorry that you do not see
the way clear to coming to
Baltimore, more sorry by
far that your decision has
been governed by the advent of
disease. Accept my most
earnest expressions of sym-
pathy and of hope that
under the excellent advice
you can command and the

Excellent care you will
certainly take, your indisposi-
tion may be removed and
your health quite restored.

I have no authority to
speak for the Trustees, - but
their renewal of the invitation
was so cordial, and their
course has been so liberal
in other matters, that I
think any pecuniary question,
if it had been raised and
submitted to them, would
have been satisfactorily met; -
but you give us no oppor-
tunity to consider this aspect
of the problem. I think
that the call would have
been repeated at an earlier

day, - were it not for a
feeling of deference and
hesitation about renewing
too soon an overture once
declined. Much as we
should wish to have you
among us, I think that any
extension of time which you
might ask for would have
been granted on our part
in order to enable you to
close up your domestic and
personal affairs. In other
words, I may say that the
Trustees and Professors, alike,
entertain the highest respect
of your ability and acqui-
sitions, and would do anything
consistent with other obligations

and responsibilities to make
your transfer and removal
pleasant.

I did not write you
freely, when the formal vote
was communicated, for I was
sure you would be confident
of my personal wishes in
the matter, and I was
excessively occupied on the
point of leaving for a long
journey to Montreal, Quebec,
St John, etc. (from which
I have not yet returned to
Baltimore.)

Please to give my kind
remembrances to Mrs. Von Holst,
and accept the very special
regards of Mrs. Gilman and
Your sincere friend,
(Signed) J. C. Gilman.
Prof. H. Von Holst.

Rec^d Aug. 18,
J. M. Holst

J. M. Holst

President Dr. C. Gilman.

My dear Sir,

I thank you very much that you have taken the trouble to inform me yet by a second note of the resolution of the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins University, for the first letter has thus far not been received. The note came to hand yesterday afternoon. Happily an opportunity was offered to inform the faculty at once of its contents. The Dean has called a meeting of the faculty for next Tuesday afternoon, and I have just finished my own letter to the government, requesting the 'Ober-Schul-Director' to come as soon as possible to a final decision, because I am expected to enter upon my new duties this fall, in case I should accept the call. As soon as I have heard from him, I shall write again.

In great haste

Yours very truly
Freiburg, Aug 17, '99. Saturday.

Ludwigstrasse 24. J. M. Holst.

J. Holst

President D. C. Gilman.

My dear Sir,

I thank you very much, that you have taken the trouble to inform me yet by a second note of the resolution of ^{the Trustees of} the Johns Hopkins University, for the first letter has thus far not been received. The note came to hand yesterday afternoon. Happily an opportunity was offered, to inform the faculty at once of its contents. The Dean has called a meeting of the faculty for next Tuesday afternoon, and I have just finished my own letter to the government, requesting the "Oberschul, Director" to come as soon as possible to a final decision, because I ~~am~~ expected to enter upon my new duties this fall, in case I should accept the call. As soon as I have heard from him, I shall write again.

For safety's sake I shall mail yet another identical note.

In great haste
Yours very truly

Freiburg, Aug. 2, '79. Saturday,
Ludwigstrasse 24.

J. H. Holst.

C
1 Holst

President Dan. C. Gilman,

Freiburg, Aug. 12, 1879.

My dear Sir,

Alia jacta est! What I alluded to in my last letter (Aug. 8th) as a possibility has become a reality. In a delicate, but yet very pointed way the government has urged the claims it has upon my gratitude. I had to acknowledge that it had a right to do so, but I nevertheless refused to accept its propositions. The position taken by the government however forced me to submit to it counter-propositions, and now a despatch informs me that they have been accepted.

I have been so deeply impressed by all the kindness experienced during my sojourn in Baltimore, and I appreciate so highly ^{the honor} you and the Trustees have conferred upon me by the call to your University, that I must ask permission to add a few words. I owe it as well to you and to them as to myself to show that my decision has not been taken lightly and that it is mingled with sincere and great regrets.

If the call had not been received immediately after my return from America, I would not have entered upon any negotiations at all with the government, but simply accepted

the call. And the determining reason for acting thus would not have been the material advantages, though, as I have no fortune of my own, it is no small consideration that even now my salary here will not be quite a fourth of that that offered by the Trustees of the Johns Hopkins. I would have considered it a duty to science, for the main task of my life as a scholar and writer is to remain the study of the history and the institutions of the United States, and every boy can understand how much better my opportunities would have been in this respect in Baltimore than anywhere in Europe, and especially than here. But the fact that I had just enjoyed leave of absence for a whole year, drawing all the while my full salary, put me under a strong moral obligation towards the government. I was, though not legally, yet morally bound to give it a chance to keep me here. All parties concerned showed a determined will to avail themselves of this chance. The faculty, by unanimous resolution, requested the government to make the greatest exertions, and the government, without a moment's hesitation, has fully responded to this request, for, though it is, in comparison to what was offered by you, but very little what I get, yet I must acknowledge

that, situated as we here are, the government has done the most it could do.

Candor, however, requires me to add that yet another consideration has had considerable weight with me. Here my professorship is a life tenure. If I should physically or mentally become incapacitated to attend to my duties the State would be bound to go on paying me my salary to the last day of my life, and when I die my widow draws a pension during her lifetime. Even my wife - though the chance of returning to her native country was of course very attractive to her - could not help acknowledging that my duty towards her and towards our children forced me to let this go far in counterbalancing the offer of a fourfold salary. Yet I had resolved to run the risk involved in the possibility of death before my time, if the government should prove itself to be comparatively indifferent as to my going or staying. The first mentioned consideration alone has been the decisive weight in the scales. I can say that I have not chosen at all; under the peculiar circumstances I could exercise my free will only to a very limited extent, and I might say that the decision has

been forced upon me.

You would confer a favor upon me by communicating this letter to the Trustees.

Yours very truly

J. H. Holst.

P.S. In order to be quite sure that the news reaches you I shall send a duplicate.

1 Holst
and
Mitt. 29

Fresburg, Febr 5th, '80.

My dear Sir.

The immediate object of this letter is a request. It is more especially intended to be addressed to my colleague, Dr. Adams, but I prefer to let it go through your hands, because, although he is mentioned in the last catalogue of the Johns Hopkins, he may not be in Baltimore just now.

I am anxious to ascertain the reasons why the Senate did not at once confirm the nomination of Mr. Bancroft as Secretary of the Navy by Mr. Polk. The sources at my command don't give me any clue, and the fact is the more striking as there was no difficulty whatever with regard to any of the other cabinet nominations. Perhaps I would be in no embarrassment for an explanation if I knew the special reasons which determined Mr. Polk to select Mr. Bancroft for just this position. I would be greatly obliged to Dr. Adams if he could solve this problem for me. Perhaps Dr. Scott could render him some assistance. In Massachusetts there are certainly yet many people alive who know all about it.

When you write to Mrs. Jos. P. Thompson please remember me kindly to her and assure her of my deep sympathy with the irretrievable loss she has suffered. Dr. Thompson has been one of my oldest, truest, kindest and most valued American friends, and his memory will always be dear to me. Trusting that, although, for the reasons given at the time I had to

decline the call to Baltimore, you still take a kindly interest
in me, I shall mention that I lead a very quiet student's
life. More than half ^{time} of every single day of my life I am with
you, i.e. in the United States, busily working at my third volume.
My mental work has gradually rendered me so much of an
American, that I am sometimes almost astonished to see myself
in Germany. And yet it may be best so, as I am doing here a
kind of scientific missionary work, but like all missionary
work it is hard and the harvest small. You cannot imagine how
difficult it is to make old Europe condescend to pay a little attention
to the upstart on the other side of the ocean. The arrogance of ignorance
sometimes drives me into a perfect fury. Well, you need not mind it, for we
will have to pay for it.

Many thanks for the last report of the Johns Hopkins, for my interest in your
institution is unabated, although I have not become a member of it.

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Feltman and the young ladies.

Yours very truly
H. Holst.

Holst

Fresburg, Oct. 31, '80.

President S. C. Goldman,

My dear Sir,

You will remember that your first letter of July 1879 concerning the call to the Johns Hopkins has never reached me. As such a mishap might repeat itself, I deem it advisable to inform you that about six weeks ago I have written you a long letter with regard to the same question.

A few days ago I have finished the manuscript of the third volume of my work and I hope that the setting into type will soon be commenced with. We are again in full harness, the lectures having commenced last week. So I have not had a moment's breathing time. Nevertheless I trust that I need not be afraid of a break down in the middle of the race, although I have had the extra. pleasure of being nurse for about five weeks. My wife was in danger of losing the thumb of her right hand in consequence of a very ugly cut and at the same time both children had the measles in a pretty bad form. I hope the Constitutional History of the U. S. will have escaped the danger of becoming infected, although it has been in such close contact with the sufferers. Measles are a children's disease and as the Republic has celebrated its one hundredth birthday even self-satisfied and incredulous Europe begins to believe that it is out of its swaddling clothes. I expect to find in this week's Herald a description of your Dec 25, more festivities.

Please give my best respects to Mrs. Goldman.

Yours very truly
H. Holst.

✓
Holst

Treasury, Nov. 9, '80

President S. C. Gilman,

Dear Sir,

Your favor of October 25th has just come to hand. I think the decision you have come to is the safest and, therefore, the best for both parties. I have ~~been~~ always been inclined to take this view of the question, but the remarks in your last letter induced me to address to you the inquiry, in order to prove that I had acted bona fide and, so far as circumstances and imperative duties would permit, was willing to do my best to fulfill the expectations which I had given you reason to entertain.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Gilman.

Yours truly

J. H. Holst.

P.S. I am busy with reading the proof sheets of my third volume.

Holst

New York, June 2, 1889.
215 East 15th St.

Pres. Dan. C. Gilman.

My dear Sir,

Upon arriving here this afternoon I learned that by mistake a letter from you has been forwarded to Ithaca. I have telegraphed for it and hope the necessary delay in answering it will not be of much consequence.

The intended trip to the New England States I have been obliged to give up, because I have yet so much library work to do, that during the last weeks of my sojourn in the U. S. I must not exist at all for society, a thing absolutely impossible in Boston, as I would have to call there on many people. I shall sail on the 30 of July and until then quietly stay here in New York.

Very truly yours
J. F. Holst.

ans. as in appoint on June 20: M

Holst

New York, June 6, '79
215 E. 15th St.

Pres. Sam. C. Johnson,

My dear Sir.

I shall be at your disposal on the 20th of June or, in case you should prefer to change your plans, on any other day between now and the 2d of July. If possible, you will please appoint the time (and place) of the rendezvous a few days beforehand, so that I am sure not to have an other engagement.

Very truly yours

H. Holst.

Holst



DELMONICO OF THE WEST.

CHARPIOT'S HOTEL AND RESTAURANT,

LARIMER STREET,

JEROME S. RICHE, PROPRIETOR.

Denver, Colorado, April 11, 1879.

My dear Sir,

ack
Chapman to
intro at 17

President Sam. C. G. Luman.

It seems to be time to make good my promise and inform you of my whereabouts, so that you might write to me in case there is any reason for doing so.

My Southern trip is finished and I am on my way to the Pacific. Until the first of May letters would find me in San Francisco (Post office). Thence I shall proceed directly to Chicago, where my address will be care of Julius Rosenthal, Esq. Attorney at Law. From Chicago I intend to go via Cleveland and Niagara - (but please don't send a letter to either of these two places) - to Ithaca, where I am to repeat my Bal, & more lectures from the 19th of May to the first of June - provided President White's appointment to the ambassadorship in Berlin does not interfere with this arrangement. My movements during the month of June are as yet uncertain.

I have seen and learned a good deal, but I feel as if I could stand very well some rest, for my time being so very short. I have had to do everything at "double quick" in order to accomplish anything at all.

Please give to Mrs. G. Luman the compliments of

Yours very truly
J. H. Holst.

Western Union Telegraph Company, of Baltimore City.

Not
This Company TRANSMITS and DELIVERS messages under the conditions, limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message.
Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages.**
This message is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE** and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.
R. H. ROCHESTER, Treasurer.

No. of Message, *7*

Dated *Wash DC 27* 1879 *1044a*

Received at

To Prest Gilman

READ THE NOTICE AT THE TOP.

*Johns Hopkins University.
Departure fixed for tomorrow
morning. Can you come
today? If so telegraph
at once care Schurz
seventeen hundred nineteen H
street*

Halsh

21 pd Bus

THIS TELEGRAM HAS JUST BEEN RECEIVED AT THE OFFICE IN
**63 RICHMOND STREET,
2nd DISTRICT A. D. T. CO.**
WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.

Direct Wires.

Holst
May 13 - 179

ack

Pres. D. C. Gilman,

My dear Sir,

You will excuse me for not having written sooner, when I state that even my journal has been absolutely neglected for more than two weeks; that will prove how little leisure I have had.

Your note with the letters of introduction was received in San Francisco, but not when it was due. By some mishap it had been delayed so long on the way, that I got it only two days before I left, and then it was impossible to make use of the letters, because I had been forced - I hardly can use another word - to deliver a German lecture, to which I had to devote all my time during the last days. I thank you very much for the pains you have taken, and sincerely regret that I have not been able to derive any profit by it.

From San Francisco I went directly to Chicago, spent there about a week, and am now here in Ithaca a week. At all events I shall stay here - Sage House, Corn. Univ. - until the 1st of June, for on that day I have my last lecture. What I shall

do next, & not yet quite decided. Perhaps I shall stay
a few days longer on account of the library. Then I ex-
pect to stop a day or two in Albany and spend the rest
of my time in Boston and neighborhood. Everything
being so uncertain, I beg you to address your letters - after
the 1st of June - care of Marten Brothers, 1164 Broad-
way, New York.

Very truly yours

J. H. Holst.

Ithaca, N. Y., May 23, '79.

Marten
Brothers

ans
may 30

✓
Holst

New York, Sept. 17, '78.

223 W. 36 St.

My Dear Sir,

Your very kind letter of the 14th inst., for which I am greatly obliged to you, was received yesterday.

Your inquiry, whether I would ~~be~~ eventually be willing to deliver a course of about ten lectures I can not answer with a simple yes or no. I candidly confess that in two respects such an arrangement would be very agreeable to me. First, an addition to my pecuniary resources would be exceedingly acceptable, as I might be thereby enabled to go to some parts of the country, which I else could not visit; and secondly it might possibly procure me the assistance of gentlemen with connections and influence in parts of the country to which it might else be difficult to get the proper introductions. But the main question is not, whether I would like to receive such a proposal from the trustees of your university, but whether, in case it is made, I dare accept it with a good conscience. And this question is not readily answered. In case it was contemplated to have a course of lectures exclusively for the students of the university, so as if their own regularly appointed professor was instructing them in the regular course of their studies, i.e. with the main view towards introducing them into the right method of investigating and propounding any given subject in a really scholarly way, I would have to decline, because I have at present neither the time nor the necessary materials to treat any subject what,

ever in such a manner. If, however, the students were to form but part of the audience, so that I would be justified in thinking that no more was expected from me than to speak on some interesting question in such a manner, that my hearers could learn something and would have no cause to consider the hours spent with me as wasted, then I might possibly accept.

I say "possibly" because there is yet another difficulty in the way. It would be unjustifiable, if I would presume to speak before an American audience without the express understanding, that I am not to be considered a professional lecturer, who claims to give his public in every respect "their money's worth" and might in every respect challenge a fair criticism. Although I am generally told that I speak English pretty well for a foreigner, yet it is exceedingly far from being classical, and I even cannot guarantee that I ^{shall} not occasionally make a downright mistake. My audience ought to know that their criticisms should be confined to what I say, and that they are expected to be extremely indulgent with regard to how I say it. I would expect that the more, because, enjoying some reputation in my own country as an orator, I would put my vanity under considerable stress in speaking at all before an American public.

This being so, what justification would I have in consenting to have an American audience invited to listen to me? I see but one, and this one is of a nature not to leave me any choice concerning the theme of the lectures. Educated Americans might have a justifiable curiosity to see and hear the man, who has made

the study of their own country the main task of his life as a scholar and writer, and who can boast that the most competent American critics have acknowledged his work to be, in some important respects, superior to any American work treating the same subject. This justifiable curiosity could, however, as it seems to me, only be gratified by choosing a theme somewhat connected with my American studies. To speak directly on any American subject would, I think, betray a lack of tact. I am now in the country in order to learn, and not to teach. The result of my studies - blame as well as praise - will, in due time, be submitted with fearless candor to the judgment of the American people, - but it will be done in book form. I am not presumptuous enough, to stand up with ill-bred officiousness to lecture them to their faces on their institutions. But, as I said, I think my theme ought to have some connection with my American studies. Such being my views, but one subject suggests itself to my mind, which I might be eventually be willing to speak on:

"The German Empire, its origin, constitution, and prospects, considered in the light of the history of the United States."

It is the highest time for me to go to the library. You will, therefore, kindly excuse me for abruptly closing this letter. When I have heard again from you, I shall answer the rest of your letter.

Most truly yours

J. H. Holst.

Pres. D. C. Gilman.

1 Holst

New York, Oct. 5, 1878.

Dear Sir,

With a somewhat heavy heart I accept the proposition of the Trustees of Johns Hopkins University, which your kind intention to promote my interests has induced them to address to me. If you and they should have reason to repent of it, then, at least, it shall not be the fault of my good will to do all I possibly can under the circumstances. If there is, nevertheless, a passage in store for me, I shall have to make my exit with the doubtful consolation, that I had given you fair warning.

The time indicated in your letter, i.e. the end of January, will suit me very well. As there is to be a lecture every day, I shall spend the whole time in Baltimore and, I hope, have ample opportunity to see you and something of the workings of your University.

Please accept once more my sincere thanks for your kindness.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Holst.

226 W. 36th St.

ack
Holt

New York, Nov. 21. '78.

President D. C. Colman.

My dear Sir,

I hope you will pardon me for delaying so long my thanks for the papers which you have had the kindness to send me. I have been so very busy all the time that the most necessary letters have remained unwritten. Besides I wanted to ask you a question, which I thought better to defer until I had written out some of my lectures. Will it be necessary to have a kind of prospect printed, such as that for the lectures of Mr. H. B. Adams? I would prefer very much, if it could be dispensed with, because it would be exceedingly hard to indicate in ~~you~~ a few words the contents and tenor of every lecture. If, however, it is deemed necessary, I shall do my best to find for my children - which I would like to be more en-
chaunted with, than I possibly can be - names, which are not quite so long as those of the Spanish noblemen.

Very truly yours,

H. Holt.

226 W. 36th St.

✓
Holst

New York, Sept 12, '78.

TH
MM

My dear Sir,

You will, probably, be rather astonished to receive a letter from me written in New York. The Berliner Akademie der Wissenschaften has sent me over in the interest of my work on the constitutional history of the U.S.A.

In the first place I, of course, want to get hold of the great mass of important printed material which is not to be found in any European library, not even that of the British Museum excepted. Books, newspapers, etc. are, however, not the only sources of information I have come to consult. To see once more with my own eyes the people and observe the practical working of their institutions is one of my main objects. My attention will, therefore, in this respect be principally directed to those parts of the country which I have not visited during my former sojourn in the U.S.A., i.e. the South and the coast of the Pacific. How far my journeys will be extended and how much time will be devoted to the several States, has to depend from my purse. The sum, which the Academy has allowed me - respectively which it intends to grant at the beginning of its next fiscal year - in April 1879 - is comparatively large, but neither the size of your country nor the prices in it are commensurate with the capacities of German purses. I, therefore, stand much in need of good advice how to make use of my means to the best advantage.

That you are among the very first to whom I apply for

such advice, you will certainly think but natural, as you are one of the few Americans whom I am personally acquainted with and of whom I know that they take an interest in my work, and, furthermore, as you have lived yourself some years in California. This and the pleasure of meeting you are, however, not the only reasons which will induce me to stay a little while in Baltimore. I, besides, would like very much to see Johns Hopkins University, I, therefore, request you to inform me of the time of your several vacations that I may not 'find the cradle empty', as the late Dr. Raymond expressed himself, when I visited Vassar College some nine years ago.

When I shall probably come, I am as yet absolutely unable to tell. I expect to remain in New York - busy with library work - till about the end of November. Whether I shall then go at first to the North-West - principally to Chicago, where I want to see the publisher of the English translation of my work and some intimate German friends - or at once start for Washington and the South, will depend from several considerations concerning which I am as yet unable to form an opinion.

Very truly
Yours

H. Holst.

223 W. 36th Str.

Prof H. von Holst

New York, Sept 12. 78

c
Holst

Sam. C. Goleman, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I think I can now definitely accept your kind invitation for the 22d. Not that I have accomplished here so much that I can well spare the time. I can, on the contrary, do so little of what I ought to do, that it is of no great consequence whether I do still a little less. Besides I do not only look forward to considerable pleasure, but expect also to learn something, and that is the principal justification in my own eyes.

The card, which you had the kindness ^{to send me} for Mr. Nordhoff, has been lost, I suppose thanks to the love of order of the colored brother who pretends to minister to my earthly wants. Do not put yourself to the trouble of sending another, for I could anyway not call on Mr. Nordhoff this week. I shall request you one in Baltimore, in case I then see any chance of making this interesting acquaintance.

Please give my best compliments to Mrs. Goleman.

Very truly yours

J. F. Holst.

Wash. Febr. 17. '79.

Washington, Febr. 20, '79.

Pres. & Mrs. C. G. Luman.

My dear Sir,

Your kind invitation was received this morning. I shall be in my old quarters at Dr. Reuling's, and in case my amiable hosts don't raise too decided objections I shall, with great pleasure, be one of your guests on Saturday.

In the mean time please remember me kindly to Mrs. G. Luman and the young ladies.

Very truly yours
J. H. Holst.

c
Holst

June 11th, 1880.

President D. C. Gorman.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of June 14th was received on the 2d inst. The answer has been delayed so long, because in several important respects the question has assumed a very different aspect since it was decided for the first time. The moral obligation towards the Baden government, which forced me last year to yield to its wishes, does no longer weigh so heavily upon me that any body could justly blame me for ^{principally} consulting my own inclinations and interests. I, therefore, did not enter at all into any negotiations with the government, but simply notified it that the call had been repeated and that I was strongly inclined to accept it. Mr. Noth, the head of the Department of education, and Mr. von Sylbel urged me with great energy to decline, for to gain a somewhat broader and more solid foundation for my work on the United States would not be a sufficient reason to deprive my own country of my services, where they are appreciated and but fair to be appreciated still more in the course of time. Besides both gentlemen promised to exert all their influence to remove, as much as possible, the obstacles which encumber here my way in the pursuit of my American studies, and the former ~~made~~ at once made me some offers on the part of the government with regard to this point. I cannot deny that this appeal to my patriotism has had some effect upon me. Yet I thought myself a person of too little consequence to render my remaining here or going away a question of any importance, and so much the more so as the work of my pen - the best of the little I am able to accomplish - would not suffer but, on the contrary, be improved by my going to America, and would at the same time belong just as

much to Germany as if it had been written on German soil.

So, after all, personal reasons had to give the decision. With regard to these, however, the Johns Hopkins has lost some ground in the course of the last year. When I declined the call last summer I was so perfectly satisfied that you and the Trustees would at once commence to look for another man and never again bestow another thought upon me, that I forthwith commenced to enlarge my little house, which was becoming altogether too small for me and my family. Fall, winter and spring have been spent in considerable discomfort on account of the putting up of a new story, and there still remain some rooms to be fitted. This unnecessary discomfort I would, however, willingly have taken into the bargain, but this building has swallowed up all my little savings. The times here continue to be very hard and I would suffer a great loss by being compelled to sell my house - all the fortune I have - at a moment's notice. Besides the breaking up of the whole household - and especially in so short a time - would also involve very heavy losses, while the journey to America with my whole family ~~to America~~ would be a very great expense. Perhaps all these difficulties could have been overcome, if the proposal had been made two months earlier, for then I would have been able to ask whether the Trustees would perhaps be willing to render any coming possible by granting me an indemnification. As it was, any further communication with you before coming to a definitive decision was rendered impossible, for your semester begins by the middle of September and you would expect me to enter at that time, while our semester is about to end and my government has a right to demand, that I shall not quit its service before

having offered it an opportunity to secure a successor, yet I would have been willing to run the risk of being refused an indemnification, may I might have made up my mind beforehand to suffer all the above-mentioned losses, if in one respect I had been in the same condition as I was last year. The disposition, of which I spoke in my last letter to you, has been ascertained to be a kidney disease. It is true, all the physicians declare that it is in itself not dangerous at all - they call it a wandering or migratory kidney - but it is generally (and so with me) connected with considerable pain unless constant and great care is taken not to irritate the organ by much walking, bending, riding, etc. These pains sometimes become so insufferable that, although the organ may be else in a perfectly normal condition, it is necessary to cut it out - an operation which now-a-days generally succeeds, but nevertheless is one of the great operations in which life is suspended on a thread. Now, although mine is not at all one of the bad cases and I might hope that the ingenious bandage, into which I am laced, will secure me a comparatively comfortable life, so that I am no longer to any considerable extent hindered in the pursuit of my duties, as I have been for some time, yet I had to ask myself whether the Johns Hopkins would, under these circumstances, be at all desirous to have me come. And whatever the answer might be, after long and earnest, I may truthfully say after anxious reflection I have come to the conclusion that, under these circumstances, the duties towards my family do not allow me to sacrifice a very considerable part of my scanty savings, without being sure of having the loss reimbursed, and to take a position, where my death or my becoming unfit for work would leave my wife and my children without any means of support, while our persons

laws here would at least secure them from starvation.

Though these considerations have been the decisive ones, yet the question has been very far from being with me exclusively one of interest. I have deeply felt in the matter and am profoundly grateful as well, for the per-
sistency with which the Baden government has tried to keep me, as for
the confidence with which the Johns Hopkins has renewed the call - an
honor of which I am and always shall remain very proud. It was
equally hard to disappoint either side. I can, however, hardly say that
I have decided against you. If I had not been so quite unexpectedly
smitten with this though not directly dangerous, yet serious and, it seems,
incurable disease the scales would have gone down on your side. But
there is ^a redeeming feature in this, for as fate has cast the die against
you, I am sure that neither you nor the Trustees can or will bear
me any ill will on account of my declining again.

You would oblige me by reading this letter at a meeting of the
Trustees, for I would be very sorry to lose the good will of any of these
gentlemen.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the letter with a few
words.

Most Truly
Yours

J. S. Holst.

Holst
Aug 10-1880

President D. C. Johnson

My Dear Sir,

Your kind letter has remained so long unanswered partly because I have been unwell for some time, and partly because we have had visitors to whom I had to devote all my leisure hours.

Although the question has, of course, greatly interested me, yet I have purposely never asked whether anything had been resolved upon by the proper authorities with regard to the professorship for historical and political studies, because I thought that in my peculiar position it might be deemed indelicate. Now, as you mention the subject, I cannot help noticing it in my reply, and yet, to tell the truth, I hardly know what to say. Perhaps it is the best to let you know how I and my motives in declining the call last summer have been judged, resp. not judged on this side of the Ocean, in order to make you understand why I prefer not to say anything until the question is definitively settled.

I wrote you at the time that the pecuniary advantages offered to me in Baltimore were, in my opinion, counterbalanced by the fact that here my position is one for life and that as well I, in case of becoming incapacitated for the duties of it, as my widow get a pension. Nevertheless, if I had not just enjoyed a leave of absence for a whole year, drawing my full salary all that time, I would have considered it my duty to accept the call on account of the great advantages offered in Baltimore for the pursuit of the studies which are and will remain the main task of my life as a scholar. There are many persons here to whom it seemed very strange, if not incredible, that I should really have considered this moral obligation towards my government a clog on my foot, while others seemed to think that I was not fully aware of the force, with which my moral obligations bound me down to the soil of Germany. Prof. v. Sybel, to whom I made, exactly the same statement as to you, ^{declared} expressed himself the

more satisfied with the resolution I had come to, because there had been some difficulty in getting the second half of the purse paid, which the Academy had granted me for the journey to the United States, in consequence of a rumor that I would accept a call to an American university. (It was the unfounded rumor of a call to Cornell.) Mr. v. Sylbel has many and great claims upon my gratitude, so that I cannot be indifferent to his opinion, and especially not in this question. Yet I thought then and still think that the Academy would have had no reason to complain, if I had exchanged my German professorship for an American one. When the Baden government expressed a wish to retain my services, I thought that I had no right to leave Freiburg before I had delivered a single lecture after having received such a signal favor from its hands; but an institution like the Berlin Academy ought, in my opinion, not to blame me for ever thinking of ceasing to be Professor of a German university, but only consider the interests of science, which, in this case, would have been promoted by my going to Baltimore. These different criticisms have reminded me of the fable of the peasant riding on a donkey with his son.

Please accept my thanks for all the papers, which have been duly received. The Journal of Philology I shall show to our philologists and let you know some time what they think about it. The Johns Hopkins has been several times mentioned in our faculty meetings, and always in a satisfactory manner. We are debating a new 'Promotionsordnung' and a motion is pending to require ~~that~~ of every candidate for the degree of Ph. Dr. a three years' study in a German University or a university organized after the German pattern. I opposed this motion and in the course of my argument adverted to the Johns Hopkins. Thereupon our Professor of Mathematics declared that, according to what he had learned about this institution from my letter in the *Ingsburger Allgemeine* and what he knew himself about Professor Sylvester, he would be perfectly

willing to admit a candidate from the Johns Hopkins. On an other occasion our Professor of Physics said: 'Rowland is a good name.' Of course your own consciousness of what you are doing satisfies you; yet I suppose you will not be displeased to hear such comments upon your institution.

With the request to give my best regards to Mrs. G. I am

Yours very truly

H. Holst.

Freiburg W. May. 10, '80.

Prof Van Holst

May 1880

✓
Holt

Fresburg, Sept 17th. 1880.

President D. C. G. Luman.

My dear Sir,

I have purposely delayed so long answering your letter of July 31, partly because I wanted to see whether the comparative physical rest during the vacation would have any beneficial effect on my kidney disease, and partly because our correspondence could lead to no practical result before your return to Baltimore. Perhaps you and the Trustees have come to the conclusion that the question of my coming to Baltimore is to be considered as definitively decided. If that be so, I earnestly request you to treat this letter as not written and not to mention it at all. I do not wish to interfere in the least with any plan you may have formed, even if it be in the very first stage of development. And in case you have as yet not adopted any new plan, there does ought not to prevent you from doing so and pursuing it to its consummation without any regard whatever to your first project. These last six weeks I have worked hard and accomplished a good deal, but though I have been able to do that, it is as yet too early to say, whether on account of my disease my joining you would not be adverse to our mutual interests. I, therefore, do not mean to enter into new negotiations, but I merely deem it due to you to express my willingness to receive more particular and positive information, because you intimate that, in your opinion, all the other difficulties might have been overcome, if I had given the Trustees a chance. Perhaps they will not think it worth while to take this question at all into consideration.

as long as the state of my health does not permit me to say: I am ready to come, if we can agree upon the conditions. But as it is not altogether impossible that they might be willing to state what they would be able to do in case I should - before they have made any other satisfactory arrangement - inform you of my readiness to come, I thought it would do no harm to ask. Since my decision has been more or less influenced by the fact that, as I had understood you, I was expected to decide at once. If this letter has no other effect, it will at least obviate the possibility of a second repetition of such a misunderstanding.

I will state the four points, on which I would like to be informed, as briefly and clearly as possible.

- 1) How much would the Trustees grant as a compensation for my traveling expenses, the losses I would have to suffer by breaking up my whole household and being forced to sell my house at short notice in these unfavorable times, and the expenses I would have to incur in buying books, which I would absolutely need - in my private library - for the professorship at Johns Hopkins. (I mean books which I would have to take along to start with, which are most likely not to be in your libraries, mostly of the kind we call 'Handbücher'. Here, where I treat in my lectures only more or less special themes, I do not need them and the majority are also not to be found in the University library, because they are not sufficiently 'wissenschaftlich'. In Baltimore, where my task would be at least partly a more general one, I could not dispense with them and would have to have them constantly at hand. They are so to say the coarser tools, which I would have to buy only on account of the peculiar character of the task awaiting me. In future I would, of course, expect no help from the University for my private library.) If no such

compensation could be granted, I have satisfied myself upon a more exact computation of these losses and expenses, my going to Baltimore would be simply impossible. I would have to sacrifice almost the last share of the little capital I have saved in fifteen years of hard work, and if I could not sell my little house for cash - the only thing representing this capital - for cash, I might even find it hard to borrow the necessary sum. Under such circumstances the duties towards my wife and my children would force me to remain in my present position, the advantages of which I have explained to you in my former letters.

- 2) Would the Trustees be willing to pay my salary from the date of my departure from the service of the Baden government? I would not only have to pay my living during the time intervening between that date and my actually entering upon my new duties, but also provide for my wife in advance, policy for my family in case of accident, for from the date of my discharge my own and my widow's claims for a pension here are extinguished.

- 3) Would I have any security not to be dismissed at a moment's notice and without sufficient cause? I know well enough that with the present Trustees and you as President I have nothing to fear, but the Trustees and the President change in the course of time and you will therefore understand that this is a serious consideration for a man who holds an office of which no authority on earth can deprive him without continuing to pay him his full salary to the end of his life.

- 4) Would four lectures, two hours seminary and two hours reading with my class be deemed sufficient by you and the Trustees? More I could not undertake - at least not for several years - without ceasing almost entirely ^{to be} an independent productive scholar. Three or four hours a week I would like so to arrange, that I would have

two days free, in order to be able to go from time to time to Washington, New York, etc. in the interest of my own researches.

Please give my compliments to Dr. Harris and tell him that I hope to finish the manuscript of my third volume before the end of the vacation. Ere that is done I can not attend to any letters except the absolutely necessary ones. Therefore he must be kind enough to have patience and wait yet a while for an answer.

I beg you to remember me kindly to Mrs. Gorman and the young ladies; and believe me

most truly
yours

H. Holt.

P.S. Unless you have good reason to speak about this letter to other people, I should prefer to have it communicated only to the Trustees, provided you do not consign it at once to the waste paper basket.

✓
Holt

Freiburg, April 14, 1883.

President D. C. Gilman,

My dear Sir,

I owe you an apology for delaying so long my answer to your kind letter, which was the more acceptable, ^{as} ~~because~~ it came quite unexpectedly. Truth compels me to say that, in spite of your warning, hard work is my only excuse. These vacations have been wholly devoted to the Kansas-Nebraska bill, but now Douglas & Co. are smashed as effectually as I have been able to be. I fully agree with you on the subject of "over-work", but I cannot afford always to live up to the theory, if I am to accomplish anything. Other professors treat more or less the same subjects in their lectures and in their writings, while with me the latter have directly nothing whatever to do with the former. The consequence is that I cannot possibly take as much time for recreation as many others do. I would have no objection if it was otherwise, but I can't help it. The duties as Teacher have to be fulfilled and you know that a German professor is dead as soon as he ceases writing. It is true, that I have been repeatedly advised by some of our historical stars of the first order to lay aside for some years my American studies and to write on some subject, which German scholars ^{are} better acquainted with, because then, as they assure me, I would have the best chance to be called to one of our great universities. I have, however, bluntly refused to follow this advice, and shall ever do so. In my opinion, the less they understand about American history, the more they should be gratified that an opportunity is offered them to learn something about it. At all events, my ^{as a scholar and writer} ~~lot~~ is irrevocably cast with the Americans. I am no Rasko to till two fields at the same time. The United States afford me more material than I can master in my life-time, and, therefore, I shall remain faithful to them, ^{though} the inevitable consequence of that will be that I am not called to one of the great universities. In my humble opinion it is fully as just, if not as to that of the Egyptians or Assyrians. But I doubt, that I shall live to see the day when that is fully acknowledged in Europe. Soon after the first

volume of my work had been published. Dr. Kapp wrote to me: 'Many will praise it, few will read it, and nobody will study it,' and he has been but too true a prophet, so far as Germany is concerned. In the German mind the United States are as yet but an economical entity, and even as such as yet pretty far from being duly appreciated; as one of the weightiest factors in the general development of mankind, they have as yet to be discovered. That is the sober truth - infinitely more so than, I think, most educated Americans imagine. But it need not wound their sensibility, because the only reason of it is gross ignorance on the part of the Europeans - an ignorance which, already now, has to be dearly paid for in many respects, and which, in future, will cost them yet much more. If the Americans knew how often this ignorance has forced me to take the field as their defender, they would readily forgive me many a harsh opinion I have been in conscience bound to express upon them in my work.

I have been very glad to see that, upon the whole, you seem to think favorably of my 'Calhoun.' As yet I cannot return the compliment, for although 'Houree' has been received about two weeks ago, Douglas's Semagogyical sophistries have thus far so entirely taken up my time, that I have only been able to read the preface and glance at the Appendix.

The prospect of seeing you this summer is most gratifying. By the first of August my house in the city is locked up and I go to rusticate with my family on a miniature farm, consisting of a very primitive cottage, some grass plots and some vineyards, which I have bought two years ago, because it was for me absolutely necessary and for my family very desirable to live regularly during the fall vacation in the country air, and because I could not afford to go to a watering place. Yet this must not interfere with your visit. I

earnestly request you, to send me two or three days before your arrival a postal card when I may expect you, and I shall surely be at the station to bid you a most hearty welcome. As the farm is but forty minutes ride with the cars from Freiburg, you have not to be afraid of putting me to any inconvenience whatever. In order not to forget it, I shall give you at once the address: Thringen am Kaiserstuhl, Baden. Please write that down into your note book and be sure to send your card in time, because there we receive the mails but once a day.

I beg you to thank Dr. Adams as well for his letter as for the J. H. University Studies. A friend of mine in Chicago, who knows that I follow up the doings of the Johns Hopkins with lively interest, has presented me with another set of copies; I shall, therefore, present one set, to our University library. I shall send a notice to the Historische Zeitschrift, but it may get winter before I can possibly find the necessary leisure. Nothing else in Dr. Adams' letter requiring an immediate answer, I shall write to him when I can tell him something definite.

Please remember me kindly to Mrs. Gorman, Judge Brown, and all other persons who honor me by still taking a little interest in my existence.

Yours most truly

J. H. Holst.

returned by Dr Adams to Mr Gilman

Holst
n.d.

Prof. Gilman.

My dear Sir.

We are expecting to day an aunt, Miss Leuz,
who has spent the summer in the neighbor-
hood. So we cannot possibly both accept
your kind invitation, I shall, however,
come, and my wife requests you and
Mr. Lammam to take a cup of coffee
with us in the afternoon, so that
she two might have the pleasure
of seeing you once more.

Very truly
Yours

J. F. Holst.