

Orig. p. 'Samarra' (Copy) 2438. Washington St.  
Boston. May 16<sup>th</sup> 1846.

My dear Sir;

I am beginning to feel a good deal of uneasiness at the non-arrival of the "Index" at Madrid; your last letter of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March having informed me that it had not reached you; more than three months having elapsed since it was sent from here.

I have consequently addressed letters of enquiry to Mr. Briate, the Consul General at New York, and also to the consignee of the vessel by which it was forwarded, and I beg herewith to enclose you copies of their replies.

It seems, that after a detention of six or seven weeks, in New York, the package was sent by the Spanish Brig "Mercedes", which vessel left that port on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, and has since been repeatedly reported as having arrived at Barcelona on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March - six days previous to the date of your letter.

It was suggested to me as most advisable to forward the package through Mr. Briate as one intended for the Government, under the idea that it would go more safely & securely with his official despatches, usually sent, as I understood, by the way of Havana.

Had I known that Mr. Suarez would obtain his leave of absence so soon, or that this arduous work of mine would be regarded as an ordinary package which could be sent by any sailing vessel, I should most assuredly have retained it to go by him. Having instituted all the enquiries possible to me on this side of the water, I must hope if the package be still delayed & the interest in it still continues, that all necessary and proper enquiries will be made of the collector at Barcelona to whom it was especially commended by Alon. Briate.

This work was undertaken by me at the very pressing and repeated solicitations of Mr. Spherchia, after much hesitation and many serious misgivings: and I have given to it the almost exclusive attention and labor of fifteen months - a matter of much moment to me at my advanced period of life - and I naturally feel some degree of solicitude that my labor of love should finally and safely reach its destination & whatever may be the intrinsic value of my effort - and whatever may be the appreciation it shall be its good or evil fortune to meet with at the hands of the Academy.

As regards the package itself it was

carefully and thoroughly done up here, in double boxes and double wrappers of cloth & paper, and it was plainly & legibly addressed to the "Royal Academy of Madrid". -

It has been intimated (how truly I do not know) that it was opened in New York, - for what purpose or reason I am unaware. If this be the fact I should deeply regret it on account of the exposure to injury or depreciation. A copy of the Title and Preface had been previously forwarded, so that the character of the contents must have been plainly manifest, and going as I supposed it did, as a packet for the Government there would appear to be no need of examination, and if one occurred at all (which I trust did not) it would seem to have been made to gratify curiosity than a case of necessity.

I am the more concerned at the delay, as in your later letters you assure me that you will give immediate advice of the arrival of the package as soon as it reaches your hands. I am the more concerned, too, from the fact before stated to you, that owing to my desire to send the work as speedily as possible to its destination I was unable to retain a copy of it in its present form. I am, dear Sir, with much respect and regard, sincerely yours,  
F. Bradford  
Sec. Don Agnayo Paus,  
Secretario perpetuo de la Real Academia, Madrid.

