[1811, May]

New York Monday

Dear Sir

I arrived here only yesterday. — I find that the new appointments in the College of Surgeons were the effect of the manoeuvres of Hosack who from interested motives has also joined the Democrats. — Since I conversed with you an Idea has struck me which may possibly serve the interests of Science. & which if it meets your & Dr Dwights approbation it would be best to communicate to the students before the Vacation; that is, to give a premium at the Examination or Commencement, of a hundred specimens of Minerals to the best Mineralogist or to whom who makes the most useful discovery in that Science. This premium to be awarded annually by yourselves and I will furnish the minerals from my Cabinet. — If you approve of this with Dr D you are at liberty to announce it. — The Cabinet frame, I think would be constructed to most advantage in the manner mentioned in retreating shelves. — of which this section will sufficiently describe the dimensions. — ~~Some~~ a part may be finished directly and we can see then if any improvements can be suggested. — This is the French plan & I think the best. — I do not recollect any other part which would require a particular description. —



in haste yours truly. G. Gibbs