

C.4/C.389

STUART WOOD,
400 CHESTNUT STREET.

Philadelphia, 12 mo. 9, 1905

Judge Clark,

Hobart, Tasmania

My dear Judge Clark:

Your letter of October 18th came in during my absence from home and as I believe has been answered by Dr. Rowe so far as it relates to business of the Academy.

It may be interesting to you to hear a word about our recent elections as in diverse parts of the Country they resulted in the expression of a very vigorous protest against what is known as Boss Rule. Particularly here in Philadelphia, where things could run with a pretty high hand to further pecuniary interests of a rather sordid clique, there has been a most remarkable uprising. Our defective laws have permitted of the fraudulent voting of probably 40,000 or 50,000 names, and the general loose way in which our election machinery has been operated have permitted of

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other serious frauds. By vigilance and hard work these various handicaps were duly removed in this election, but all this accounts for only part of what has been accomplished. The Democratic party ~~of what~~ in this City has been for years practically eliminated, so that partisan questions did not seriously interfere in the contest, which, however, was waged against the machine. ~~It was~~ carrying on business under the name of the Republican Party. So strong was our movement that the the former Republican majority of something like 150,000 in the City of Philadelphia was converted into a Reform majority of about 50,000. The Governor immediately called a special session of the Legislature to enact reform measures and the air is now full of projects in ballot reform, electoral reform, Civil Service reform and a general straight-forward business

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like management of Municipal ^{affairs} ~~force~~.

While the situation has been more pronounced in Philadelphia than in most other places the movement fits in ~~in~~ ^{with} a general current of similar movements in other parts of the Country. Altogether it is a very hopeful revival and one in which I am sure you would be greatly interested

I wish that my engagements would permit me to take a long trip around the world and visit the Antic^{pod}~~ipities~~ as well as its other parts. Meanwhile I should be most glad if your steps should lead hither again. I am sorry to have you think of severing your connection with the Academy, which has been particularly valued by us from you high position in your land so distant from our own; and I know that it will be very gratifying to our people if you felt you could continue.

With very kind regards, I am

To
Hon. A. Augustus Vails
Hobart

Yours very truly,
Stuart Wood