

Office of the
 COMMISSIONERS ON THE PUBLICATION
 OF THE
 PROVINCE LAWS.

ARNER C. GOODELL, JR., Editor.

Boston, Mass.,

Feb. 15.

1887.

My dear Sir:

The joint resolution for an Index of foreign papers 1763-1783 (S. R. 96, 49th Congress 2d Session) which has been prepared in accordance with our Memorial to Congress is in charge of Hon. Wm C. P. Brekinridge of Kentucky. It is important that as many members of the House, as possible should be induced to work for its enactment.

I take the liberty, therefore, to ask you to use every proper means to persuade such of the Representatives from your state, as you can reach by letter, or through others, to give it their support.

It has been suggested that, aside from economical considerations the only opposition to be apprehended would be based on the suggestion that the facts to be learned by a study of the indexed papers, have already been gleaned for, and are condensed in the works of leading historians - particularly Mr.

Bancroft, who has a large and costly collection of transcripts.

You will observe that there is nothing in the scheme of an Index that will necessarily preclude Congress from purchasing or otherwise obtaining this collection of Mr. Bancroft's, or the collection made by Sparks, or, indeed, any other collection that may be offered. On the contrary, the Index would be the surest test of the value and completeness of these collections, and thus remove many difficulties likely to be encountered in considering any proposal for transferring the title of these collections to the United States.

The Index contemplates an exhaustive enumeration and a full description of all public papers relating to America. ^{within the period specified} It will, in all probability, include a great many more of such papers than can be found in all collections heretofore made for use in this country, and, by the critical readings and comparisons which Mr. Stevens proposes to give to his work, it will undoubtedly lead to the correction of errors - some of them perhaps

very important, but almost unavoidable
in transcribing from one out of several
original papers, or from translations,
not always accurately made.

The above considerations are the
only apology I have to offer for making
this urgent appeal.

Respectfully Yours,

Boston, Feb 15/87

My dear Sir:

I am sending out
Circular letters to officers of State
Hist. Societies in Me., N. H.,
R. I., Vt., Wisconsin & Georgia.

Cannot you use similar
arguments with others, who
have subscribed the N. Y. Me-
morial? At least fortify Breekin-
ridge against the invalid's suggestions noticed
above.

Hon John Bigelow,
Granary Park
N. Y.

A. Goodell