



William B Rogers

LIFE AND LETTERS
OF
WILLIAM BARTON ROGERS

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EDITED BY HIS WIFE

WITH THE ASSISTANCE
OF WILLIAM T. SEDGWICK

IN TWO VOLUMES
VOLUME I



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PREFACE.

THESE volumes have been prepared in the hope that Mr. Rogers's life, work and character as revealed in his letters, may be of some service to the cause of science and education, and especially to the officers, graduates and students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to whom this Memoir is dedicated. Certain subjects, such as those dealing with educational and scientific matters or with the early history of the Institute, have accordingly been treated in more detail than would otherwise have seemed desirable.

No life of Mr. Rogers would be in any degree adequate which did not include much of the lives of his three brothers who, with similar tastes, and pursuits almost identical with his own, occupied so large a share of his thought and affection.

The materials at command have been voluminous, and we have had difficulty in making the necessary selections. Many of the letters given have been taken not from those actually sent, but from a first draft which was kept as a copy. Our aim has been to add to the letters only so much of editorial comment as should serve to make a connected history. The geological letters, as well as those on other scientific

subjects, are given as showing the direction of Mr. Rogers's researches rather than the more correct conclusions to which these may have led.

We are indebted to many friends for permission to use letters; to others for aid in solving doubts and removing difficulties; and, for the careful preservation of documents, to Professor S. W. Holman, who has long had in contemplation the preparation of a history of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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