

Albany, May 7th 1840

Dear Sir,

I regret extremely that engagements which require my departure for New York will prevent my having the pleasure of attending at the meeting to be held this evening for the consideration of your plan for a system of exchange between governments and learned institutions throughout the civilized world, of duplicate specimens in natural history and productions in literature. It is a noble and magnanimous scheme, worthy of the civilization of the age, and the advantages of which are so obvious and striking that ~~no one~~

they must strike every intelligent mind
at a single glance. Their advantages, too,
would be peculiarly felt in this country,
in which our learned institutions and
collections are yet almost in their infancy;
for it is the singular operation of your
plan to germinate libraries and
collections promptly and almost without
cost.

Wishing you the utmost success in
your generous and philanthropic undertaking
I remain very respectfully

Alexander Vattemare, Esq

SHR

Your friend

Washington Irving