
The Coast Survey Investigation.

We give publicity to the following circular letter:

ANN ARBOR, Mich., August 10, 1885.

DEAR SIR: I just learn from a newspaper that the Commission which investigated the Coast Survey reflected upon me in their report as follows:

"That for several years, beginning in 1873, C. S. Peirce, assistant, has been making experimental researches with pendulums, without restriction or limitation as to times and places; that since 1879 expenditures on account of those experiments, aside from salaries of chiefs and assistants, amount to about \$31,000; that the meagre value of those experiments to the bureau have been substantially destroyed."

I have immediately addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Treasury, of which the following is the substance:

1st. My expenditures, aside from compensation of myself and my assistants, during the period specified, have not amounted to one-third of the sum named; and I appeal to the Secretary to ascertain this by the addition of the amounts of my original accounts now on file in the Department.

2d. All my operations have been carried on under specific instructions, and therefore have not been "without restriction or limitation as to times and places." I ask to be informed what operation does not appear to be covered by instructions on file in the office, and promise to show, in any instance, that it really is so covered.

3d. No records have been destroyed.

4th. I maintain the value of determinations of gravity in general, and the excellence of mine in particular.

5th. I tender my resignation if the opinion expressed as to the meagre value of my services is accepted by the Department.

Until my letter is acted upon it might perhaps be considered a breach of official etiquette for me to make it public; but I wish you, as a friend and scientific man, to know that I have a defence against the accusations made.

Yours very truly,

C. S. PEIRCE.
