

Boston, Mass -

4. Feb. 1885

Dear Professor Shaler -

Our report has been printed as a part-doe. but only enough copies struck off for the legislature - I have gotten a few and send you a couple. Mr. Dussler, however, will put in an order for some more for our use and I have asked the State printer to have them in a little better type and paper, with cover - I hope the report was satisfactory to you. If I had not been delayed so long in Washington I should like to have had you look it over before the first copy was made.

Our bill for office rent & necessary furniture is about through the

formalities of the legislature.  
This ~~also~~ puts it with the State  
Home Commission and quite out  
side of our appropriation.

I have to go to the Vineyard  
tomorrow but shall come off again  
on Monday and move into our  
new quarters, 9 Broadwater Square.  
After we are settled will it not  
be well to have a meeting and  
consider matters gradually.

Very truly yours

Henry L. Whitney

Prof. Whitney

U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICE,

Washington, 12 October, 1886.

My dear Shaler—

I don't want to make too much of the N. V. railway developments. But I had occasion to look at my report to Thom today and it struck me that I did not say much, if anything, in my notes to you of the physical tidal phenomenon. You understand it— that the new inlet creates one of the most remarkable tidal waterways on our entire Atlantic coast, occurring where the ocean levels on either side of it are at such different planes. The tidal current through the opening is furious. I am sorry I could not get the precise velocity, but it has disturbed the clam and scallop beds within the Bay and scoured out the softer deposits of the last 17 years from along the point and among the wharves of Edgartown. I tried to ascertain if this current was stronger now than with the opening of 1856 but from best authority I think it is about the same. In 1856 it broke away a whale ship from her moorings at the upper wharf and carried her outward, eastward, till her anchors were hit &c. For this current, of course, the depth of water into Edgartown harbor from Cape Poge was

is due - but for its scouring power the S.E. channel would be entitled to no more than the reservoir capacity power of Cotnam Bay - 5 or 6 ft. at low water -

One other point - The evidence of shore line between the S.E. corner of Cotnam Bay and the S.W. corner of Great Waring Pond I think will ~~equal~~ average of 400 feet in 40 years - equal to 10 feet per year - At this ratio what was the line of beach when Plymouth colony people came to Edgartown in 1630? - 2500 beyond its present alignment?