Inasmuch as the letter below is addressed not to an individual, but to the entire Massachusetts Institute of Technology, The Lounger sees no breach of journalistic etiquette in giving it the publicity of The Lounger column. That the letter is copied exactly as written, and that only the name and full address are omitted, any student who frequents the civil engineering drawing-rooms will testify. It is displayed there on the bulletin board.

New York, April 4, 1903.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen: I have a beautiful but rather wild tract of 1000 acres in Mount Washington, Berkshire County, Mass. I have owned it a number of years and it has never been surveyed, because I have never felt like spending the necessary money for that work. At the time I built my house I was able to build a good one, and I have a very comfortable home there.

It occurred to me that you might have a student who this summer, say commencing the 15th of August, would like from two to four weeks' vacation, and who would be willing during that time to survey the property for me in consideration of the first-class board which I would give him with my family.

Making such arrangements, of course I would want a well-bred, thorough gentleman, and I know that you have a large number of such in your class. It is possible that I might have to, or might find it agreeable to make such a man a present at the completion of his work, but I have not the ready money to put out, and hence would like to make some arrangement of this kind.

The country is particularly beautiful, and he would have the best board that it is possible to secure in a private family where no boarders were ever taken.

The altitude is about 1800 feet, and the country naturally a beautiful one. I should want a map prepared showing the lake and streams on the property, and should want the work thoroughly well done, if done at all.

I would esteem it a favor if you feel disposed to mention this to some of your students and put them in communication with me.

Yours very truly,

X.

If any young man possesses the necessary foot-rule to make, unaided and alone, the survey of “a rather wild tract of 1000 acres,” in a two weeks' vacation, and to get in exchange two twenty-one meal tickets, let him come forward to claim the princely heritage which has awaited him since God made the land. But he must be a “well-bred, thorough gentleman.” No slouch can mix in with a family “where no boarders were ever taken.” And at an “altitude of 1800 feet!” Surely the well-bred young man can say without lying that he had a hundred men under him. Attention is called to the particularly beautiful beauty of the country. Most men who pursue that low-down, unimportant profession of civil engineering have to work in sewers and dumps. But here is a chance to breathe the same air and eat the same grub as breathes and eats “the family where no boarders were ever taken,” and all for making a measly survey of 1000 acres in a two-weeks' vacation. Professors Swain and Allen, in behalf of the civil engineers of America, should say: “Mr. X, we thank you in thus honoring our profession. We feel amply repaid in educating young men when we know that they are then a little more capable and worthy of being allowed to survey ‘for a family where no boarders were ever taken.’ We shall send up a bootblack at once.”

As for The Lounger, he writes the following letter in reply:

My dear Mr. X:

In reply to your letter of the fourth inst., I respectfully offer myself up. I am well-bred,—was brought up in dancing-school, and say “beg pawdon” on every occasion. I would willingly survey a thousand acres if I could have a hunk of bread now and then. Or I would survey a thousand acres more for a ham bone. I hope this is not asking too much. If it is, say so in your next letter, and I will see what I can do about the ham bone.

Your humble engineer and footstool,

The Lounger.

Notice.

The next issue is the Junior Week Tech. Subscribers holding tickets are advised to obtain copies Wednesday, April 29, as the issue is somewhat limited.