

STATEMENT OF EARLIER NEGOTIATIONS AND PRESENT
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

At least three attempts have been made by Harvard to connect the Institute with that University. The first was in January, 1870, three months after the inauguration of Prof. Eliot as President of Harvard: President Rogers was at that time much out of health, and was spending the winter in Philadelphia. A plan for union was carried to the point where it needed only the sanction of President Rogers of the Institute. President Eliot went to Philadelphia to lay the matter before President Rogers. The following extract from the note-book of Dr. Rogers gives the result of the interview :—

Extract from note-book of Prof. Rogers, Monday, Feb. 14, 1870.

“ Visit from Charles Eliot from 11½ to 12¾. He made a full statement of the plan as far as formed—Mentioned that Messrs. Lowell, Thayer, Bowditch, and Judge Bigelow favored the annexation and thought it would be a *noble* thing for me to agree to it. I replied that I would be purely and wholly guided in anything I did or agreed to by what I regarded as the interest of the Institute and public. That I could not see any advantage to the Institute from the proposed change but the gain of some funds—but that the Institute would be a *great loser* by relinquishing its present independence, and that this would be the real result however veiled in the plan. * * * * He again spoke of the wish to name our school for the Rogers family. I expressed my repugnance to all such names.”

*Extract from “Life and Letters, William Barton Rogers,”
Volume II, page 293.*

Mr. Rogers to Acting-President Runkle,
Philadelphia, February 1, 1870.

“ Dear Runkle :—

Leaving out of view the serious if not insuperable difficulty in the way of changing the application of funds