

Amherst College

Feb. 9, '93.

My Dear Wheeler

The giving of honorary degrees is one of the prerogatives of the Trustees, & Trustees only. The faculty can only raise their fingers, & then must usually expect to be snubbed when they do it.

However I have talked with President Sates. He says he knows Prof. Webster & will do all he can in the matter.

His suggestion
is, that you get
6, 8, or 10 of the most
efficient Alumni
of your whereabouts
to sign a petition
to the Trustees for
this degree, &
present it to them
at the annual
meeting next June.

and if I
were you I should
instance the fact
that they gave this
degree "ex honoris
causa" to Moses
Merrill of Boston,
& William Scollaghan
of Easthampton, men
in the same calling
& capability.

I am sorry
I cannot give
you direct help in
this matter, but
our ladder is not
long enough.
Cordially
E. Hitchcock