20 October 1919

My dear Mr. Chillman:

I had hoped to have followed up long before this the telegram of congratulations which I sent you promptly on learning that you had been awarded the Fellowship in Architecture of the American Academy in Rome, but to my regret I still find your letter informing me of your good fortune in an accumulation of mail received at my desk during my prolonged absence in the long vacation.

We are all rejoicing in the splendid opportunities that have come to you, and especially in your determination that this institution is to have first call upon you after your three years' work abroad. And I warmly appreciate your courtesy in leaving with us as a gift the black and white drawing of the sally-port which was conspicuous among your hangings in the University Club exhibition a year or so ago.

The new year starts well with a larger enrollment than we anticipated. As a matter of fact, in this more normal year our enrollment has reached that of a year ago, when we had at least a hundred who had come for the Students' Army Training Corps. There are in residence approximately eighty Seniors, and as many Juniors, more than twice as many Sophomores, and approximately as
many freshmen as we have been receiving the last three years. At this moment we are in the midst of preparations for the Rice Reunion on Thanksgiving Day. The tentative programme includes the commemorative sermon in the morning by Dr. Sears, the football game in the afternoon, a supper-in-hall in the evening, followed by a bonfire at night. The events of the day we are proposing to make a matter of permanent record in a supplementary number of the Rice Institute Pamphlet, a copy of which I shall have pleasure in having sent to you on its appearance in print.

In the course of the next fortnight we are expecting a visit and lectures by Senator Volterra of Rome, one of our inaugural lecturers in 1912; and later on in the year Professor Jacques Hadamard of Paris, Mr. Albert Mansbridge of London, and Ex-President William H. Taft will be lecturing here. Mr. Taft will inaugurate the Godwin Lectureship which was announced last commencement. But I imagine all this news has already reached you from other local friends.

Despite my untrustworthiness of correspondence I trust that you will send me news from time to time of your impressions,
and especially of the progress of your work. In all that you may be doing my confident good wishes will be following you at however long a range.

Faithfully yours,

Mr. James Henry Gillman, Jr.