November 22, 1851

assured that I remain very truly your friend & servt Joseph Henry
Dec 16th 1851 Since writing the foregoing I have learned from a reliable
source that President Fillmore will [---] decline a nomination and that
Gen Scott is to be the Whig candidate.8

Marsh Papers, University of Vermont Library.

1. Not found.
2. Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic senator from Illinois, gave an impromptu address to the
annual agricultural exhibition and cattle show of the Maryland State Agricultural Society.
Douglas called for the establishment of a na
tional agricultural society, to which the Smithso
nian might become an adjunct. He asserted, as
paraphrased in a newspaper report, that "the
development of genius and art, as it relates to
the cultivation of our broad territory, is quite as
useful and beneficial as discoveries in the moon,
or attempts to establish abstract theories in sci
ence without practical results." Baltimore Sun,
October 25, 1851; the paraphrase was reprinted in
the National Intelligencer, October 29, 1851.
3. For the use of this term to indicate Washin
gton, see Henry Papers, 6:19n.
4. Douglas, Lewis Cass, and James Buchanan
were the leading candidates going into the May
1852 Democratic convention. None of them
were able to secure the necessary two-thirds ma
jority, and the convention finally turned to
Franklin Pierce. David M. Potter, Impending Cri
5. Winfield Scott was commander of the
6. Louis Kossuth (1802–1894), one of the
leaders of the unsuccessful Hungarian revolu
tion of 1848, was received as a champion of lib
erty when he visited the United States in De
cember 1851. He came in response to an
invitation authorized by a joint congressional res
olution. John H. Komlos, Louis Kossuth in
America: 1851–1852 (Buffalo, 1973).
7. William Orlando Butler had been the
Democratic candidate for vice-president in
1848. Like Scott, he was a hero of the Mexican
War. Henry Papers, 7:367n.
8. Fillmore did run for the Whig nomination
against Scott, but failed. It took fifty-three bal
lots at the June 1852 convention before Scott,
the candidate of the North, defeated Fillmore,
who had the support of the delegates from the

157. TO INCREASE ALLEN LAPHAM

Smithsonian Institution
Nov. 22nd 1851

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of the 15th inst1 I am pleased to inform you
that the resolution of the antiquarian society turning over to this institu
tion the results of your explorations for publication is as gratifying to
me as to yourself. This resolution is in the true spirit of science and in
strict accordance with the plan of Smithsonian operations. We wish to
coopoperate with all other institutions and with individuals in the im
portant cause of the advance of truth and the extension of the bounds of
human knowledge and human power.

I have no suggestions to make which have not probably presented
themselves to your mind. The value of observations of the kind on
which you are engaged depends almost entirely on their minute accu-
racy. The facts should be stated just as they are without regard to pre-
conceived opinions or proposed hypotheses. All the measurements
ought to be executed with care and every appearance however trivial
ought to be noticed. Sketches and notes ought to be taken on the spot
and nothing left to after memory.

I think it important that the relative position of the mounds should
be taken and it may be well to accompany your memoir with a map of
the country on which the position of each mound is indicated. I think
it important that the distribution of the works of the mound builders
should be accurately determined & for this purpose it will be advisable
to collect all the reliable information as to the locations of mounds
which you can obtain though you may not be able to visit them your-
self— I presume much valuable information on this point may be ob-
tained from the surveyors of the public lands— Do not be afraid of
putting down too much—what is irrelevant can be omitted ↑by those↓
who use the materials in the way of deducing general principles.

Your memoir should be principally a statement of facts and though
you may give your hypotheses they should be subordinate to the facts.
We are as yet only collecting the bricks of the temple of American Antiqui-
ties which are hereafter to be arranged and fashioned into a durable
edifice; it ↑is therefore↓ of of the first importance that our materials
should be of the proper kind.

We have found some difficulty in making out the topography of some
of the maps and plans we have received and I would call your attention
to this point. The different surfaces of ground should be indicated by
on the drawing so that it may be filled up by the engraver. I would also
call attention to the fact that your drawings should be so arranged as to
conform to the quarto pages of the Smithsonian volume— Accompa-
nying this letter we send you a pattern sheet.

Professor Guyot is engaged in preparing a set of tables and instruc-
tions for the use of the barometer— A copy of this will be sent you as
soon as they are printed.

I remain very truly
your obt. servt
Joseph Henry

P.S. on a former occasion we sent you a copy of Squiers N. York Ab.
Mon. by mail, franked—if you can point out a safer mode of convey-
ance, we have another copy which is at your service.² E.F.
November 28, 1851

Received, Records of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, Records of the Weather Bureau, RG 27, National Archives.

1. Not found. However, there is a draft dated November 1, 1851, in the same location as Henry's letter, in which Lapham raised a number of points that Henry appears to be answering in this letter. In reference to his study of mounds in Wisconsin, Lapham asked if Henry had "any important suggestions to make" in preparing it for publication. He told Henry that he never received his promised copy of E. G. Squier's *Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New-York*, 1850, SI Contributions, vol. 2 (Washington, 1851). Lapham also inquired about alternative methods to reduce meteorological observations.

2. In his reply, Lapham asked Foreman to send the Squier publication by franked mail.

158. "RECORD OF EXPERIMENTS"

S Inst

Nov 28 [1851]a

It is well known that bubbles of air apparently adhere to the sides of a tumbler of water when placed under the exhausted receiver. In observing this phenomenon this evening the cause of the adhesion presented itself to my mind. The cause of the apparent cohesion appears to be this.b

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

159. TO ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE

[November 1851]a

My Dear B.

Your letter1 of this morning came to the Smithsonian when I was out and therefore I could not return an answer in time to your kind invitation to dinner. The thermometer this morning was at +8° a temperature to bitter to be palatable in the way of dining out or in visiting.

I shall however much regret if my no answer prevented a chair at your hospitable table being filled by a better and less common guest than myself—

Do you start tomorrow for Phild and if so do you wish to take with you the signals? I think they would afford a good talk for our "grand mother."2 If you do I will send up the whole set—if not perhaps they had better receive another coat of paint. I send one set.

I also send you a copy of the propositions agreed upon by H. B. Wallace3 and myself as to the disposition of Dr. Hares apparatus.4 I have

264