February 10, 1837

FROM ALBERT HOPKINS1

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives

Williams College Feb 10 1837

Dear Sir

Having understood that you were to leave the country on the first of this month I concluded you had probably sailed and accordingly dispatched a letter to Mr Simms.2 However as my order was not urgent he probably will not execute it before your arrival. I have ordered a dipping needle and some needles suitable for testing the intensity of the earths magnetism. My object is to have instruments perfectly accurate and at the same time as portable as possible for I intend to travel with them. Should you be in London before my ins3 are made you will do me a favor to look a little at the different forms & advise with Mr Simms in relation to them. I enclose a letter to M. Simms. He is a member of the R. Astronomical Soc7 and will be happy I doubt not to introduce you there but you will find no difficulty in getting access to the learned bodies.

Have the goodness to remember me to D’ Torrey. I owe him a letter and intend to pay when the “vines & the tender grapes begin to give a good smell.”8

Accept dear Sir the assurance of my high regard & best wishes for your success in the interesting voyage you are about to undertake.

Obediently & truly yours

Albert Hopkins

1 For Hopkins, see Henry Papers, 2:212. A member of the Williams College faculty, he was responsible for the founding of its observatory, the first permanent one in the United States.
2 Since the death of his partner, Edward Troughton, in 1835, William Simms (1793–1860) was conducting the business of Troughton and Simms, probably the most renowned instrument maker of that period. DNB.
3 Perhaps a play on the words of the Song of Solomon, 2:15.

FROM THE SENIOR CLASS OF
THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives

Princeton February 13th 1837

Dear Sir.

The members of the Senior Class, aware of your intended departure for
February 13, 1837

Europe, have appointed (us) a committee to express their kind feelings towards you.¹ We regret exceedingly, Sir, that we could not have remained longer under your instruction, but confidently hope, if your health continues good, that your early departure will prove advantageous to the cause of science. Suffer us, Sir, in behalf of the class, to tender their sincere thanks for your attention as a professor & courtesy as a gentleman. Wishing you a safe voyage, a pleasant visit & a happy return at length to your family & friends.

We remain

Your’s most respectfully
Henry A Cram
Joseph H Dukes
William C Storrs²

¹ Contemporary and retrospective accounts of Henry as a teacher agree that he was an interesting, informative, even exciting lecturer. His courses were considered by some of the students to be the highlight of their stay at Princeton. He was also sympathetic to and understanding of the feelings of the students. Henry was perhaps the most popular Princeton professor of his day. Weiner, "Joseph Henry’s Lectures," p. 79; Wertenbaker, pp. 223-224, 243-244; William E. Schenck, preparer, Biography of the Class of 1838 of the College of New Jersey, at Princeton, N.J. (Philadelphia, 1889), p. 17.
² Cram (d. 1894), Dukes (d. 1875), and Storrs (d. 1879) seem to have been representative Princeton students. Storrs and Cram were from New York City. Dukes was one of the many Southern students at Princeton; he came from Charleston, South Carolina. Storrs and Dukes joined the Class of 1837 during its sophomore year; Cram entered Princeton one year later. Princeton Catalogue, pp. 151-152.

FROM ROBERT HARE

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives

Philad³ Feb. 13th [1837]

Dear Sir

I have written some letters in which I mention you and make acknowledgements for kindness experienced during my visit to England. You will also find a letter for my Brothers.¹ Should it so happen as that you should be in the same place with my son J I Clark Hare you will need no introduction to him, and I trust you will call on him and Mrs Hare without hesitation.² In London you will find a great number of shops in which

² John Innes Clark Hare (1816-1905, DAB) would become a notable jurist in Philadelphia. We assume Mrs. Hare is his mother, Harriett Clark Hare.