6. Henry to Seward, August 3, 1866, RU 33, Smithsonian Archives.
7. Section 3 of the legislation reads: “The Academy shall, whenever called upon by any Department of the Government, investigate, examine, experiment, and report upon any subject of science or art.” True, National Academy, p. 352.
9. Oliver Wolcott Gibbs. Henry Papers, 8:6n; DSB.
10. Henry later wrote his daughter that three of his nominees were appointed by Seward. These were Barnard, J. Peter Lesley, and Alexander. The latter died in March 1867 and had to be replaced. Henry to Mary Henry, October 18, 1866 (cited above); Doc. 43: Introduction, with Selections from the Correspondence of Commissioner General Beckwith and Others, Showing the Organization and Administration of the United States Section (Washington, 1870), in William P. Blake, ed., Reports of the United States Commissioners to the Paris Universal Exposition, 1867, 6 vols. (Washington, 1870), 1:183–184; Elliott, Dictionary, s.v. “Alexander, John Henry.”

32. TO SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

Northampton
August 12th 66

My Dear Professor

The academy has adjourned, and after a hurried visit to Boston, to look after some fog signals,1 I shall return to Washington. The meeting of the academy was more successful than any of the preceding. Quite a number of very good papers were presented and all things have gone off smoothly.2 Agassiz was in excellent spirits and I think in a mood of good feeling with all the world. He has made immense collections and has more materials than he can study in twenty years. There were but few naturalists present—among the number Le Conte,3 Dr. Gould,4 and a young man from Boston who gave an account of the silk spider.5 Among the geologists were Hall6 and Lesley.7 The eulogy of the latter on Dr. Hitchcock8 has given great offence to the good people of this town.9 The Rev Dr. Elie10 gave a sermon in answer, in the first congregational church.11

Quite a number of the members of the academy are going to Buffalo to attend the meeting of the association.12 Of the number of persons invited to attend the meeting of the academy ten came and several of these presented papers.13

The new member elected in the class of Natural History was Alex. Agassiz.14 The other candidates were Stimpson15 and Brush.16 I do not know the merits of the several candidates, but on the whole I would rather the choice had fallen on Stimpson since his election would have better served to strengthen the academy and to dissipate the impression now widely made that the establishment is an affair of Cambridge.

67
August 12, 1866 (Doc. 32)

The academy has advantages, in its organization by government, which will always give it a character which no other association in the country can possess, and if it is properly conducted will do much towards elevating the scientific character of the country. It must however become more catholic in its character and do away with even the semblance of exclusivism.

The choice of a president will be a matter of much importance. I consented to accept the office of Vice President merely to obviate difficulties and with the expectation that Bache would not survive as long as he has. I shall decline the election to any office and shall advocate the choice of President Barnard as the successor17 but of this you need say nothing.

I hope Mrs Baird has so far recovered18 as to enable you to leave Washington.

Mr. Rhees19 has I presume left before this time and you will therefore oblige me by sending a copy of the Report for 1863 and one for 1864 to Dr. Earl Superintendent of the Asylum for the Insane, Northampton.20 Also a copy to the Report for 1864 to

W. H Stoddard21
Merchant
Northampton
Mass

I have seen in the newspaper that Gen. Delafield has been removed and Gen. Humphries2 put in his place—this if true will make a change of some importance in the Board of Regents as well as in that of the Light-House.23

The weather has been quite cool since I left home. Mrs. H. fitted me out with two pairs of white pants; but I have thus far stuck to my old black woolen ones.

Give my kind regards to Mrs Baird and receive for yourself the assurance that I am

Truly yours
J.H.

To Prof. Baird

Baird Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Henry arrived in Boston on the evening of August 13, but found that Sylvester Roper, whom he wanted to see, had left for Maine to set up a fog trumpet. Henry left Boston on August 15 for Newport, Rhode Island, and a visit with Bache. Desk Diary, August 13, 14, and 15, 1866.

2. Twenty-three members attended, as well as a number of invited guests. Twenty-six papers were delivered, more than at any previous meeting. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 1863–1884, 1:58–59.

3. John Lawrence Le Conte (1823–1883), the American expert on beetles. ANB.
8. Geologist Edward Hitchcock (*Henry Papers*, 1:142n), who died in 1864, had been a professor at Amherst College in Massachusetts.
9. In the last paragraph of his eulogy on Hitchcock, which Lesley read at the August 9 meeting, he spoke of Hitchcock’s religious and theological inclinations. Hitchcock had flirted with Unitarianism in his youth before returning to the Congregational Church of his father. Lesley claimed that between the two theologies there was “less difference than people judge of it” (p. 133). He then went on to reject Hitchcock’s theology: “It savors too much of the central nucleus of fire; it makes our earth-crust too insecure; it is too full of old wives’ fables” (p. 134). J. P. Lesley, “Memoir of Edward Hitchcock, 1793–1864,” *Biographical Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences*, 1877, 1:113–134.
11. The local newspaper editorialized that Lesley would have “exhibited more common sense” if he had refrained from delivering “an uncalled for insult to the religious sense of a large portion of our community. If his conscience might not permit him to approve, his judgement ought to have counselled silence on such a point.” *Northampton Free Press*, August 21, 1866.
12. The American Association for the Advancement of Science.
13. The academy had invited forty-seven non-members to attend the meeting. Of the ten who came, six gave papers. Minutes, August 7 (pp. 154–156), August 8 (pp. 162–164), August 9 (pp. 164–166) and August 10, 1866 (p. 176), Archives, National Academy of Sciences.
14. The son of Louis Agassiz, Alexander Agassiz (1835–1910) was an assistant at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. At this time, his research focused on echinoderms. *DSB*.
17. When the time came to elect a new president in August 1867, F. A. P. Barnard received very little support from the membership. Cochran, *National Academy*, p. 98.
20. Pliny Earle (1809–1892), who had given medical assistance to the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington during the Civil War, became superintendent of the Northampton State Lunatic Hospital in 1864, a position he held until 1885. *ANB*.
22. The *New York Times* had a small notice in the issue of August 10, 1866, that A. A. Humphreys had succeeded Richard Delafield (*Henry Papers*, 10:385n) as head of the Army Corps of Engineers. Delafield had been forced to retire. *ANB*.
23. Delafield was both a regent and a member of the Light-House Board. In spite of his retirement, he remained a regent until 1871, and Humphreys did not replace him as a member of the Light-House Board until 1876. Rhes, *Journals*, p. 743; *Light-House Board Report for 1882*, p. 129.