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7. No formal action was taken by the regents. Instead, they implicitly accepted the new policy announced by Henry in his report to them: the use of the lecture hall would be restricted "to the lectures given under the immediate auspices of the Institution." Smithonian Report for 1862, pp. 43-44 (quotation on p. 44).

8. On August 3, McClellan's Army of the Potomac had been ordered to leave the vicinity of Richmond and return to help defend Washington, bringing that campaign to a close. On August 9, John Pope's Army of Virginia was attacked by Confederate forces at Cedar Mountain, the first blow in a campaign that culminated in the defeat of Pope's troops at the Second Battle of Bull Run near Washington at the end of the month. Long, Civil War Day by Day, pp. 247-258.

154. TO SPENCER FULLERTON BAIRD

Washington, Saturday
Aug 16th, 1862

My Dear B

I gave special directions in moving the cases in the room occupied by Mr. Gill1 that the one in which Stimpson's shells are in should be handled with great care since a direction to that effect was written on a label attached to the outside. The case was merely transferred from one side of the room ↑ to the other ↓ and I do not think that the contents suffered the least derangement.

The changes in the room to which you allude will I think render it much more commodious and the access to the main building far more convenient. The changes were proposed by myself to Alexander2 when he had charge of the completion of the building but I ↑he↓ would not assume the responsibility of making a door way through the wall of the main building. I have directed that the stair way be removed from the little tower and the space to be occupied by a table for the support of the microscope. The communication with the apparatus room above will be cut off by a brick floor so as to prevent the extention of fire. I think it will be well to erect a stud partition through the room in which Mr Meek works so as more thoroughly to separate it from the passage between the entry and the museum. In making this change the little room in the tower occupied by Solomon3 ought in like manner to be devoted to microscopical examinations.

I directed that the bird cases which have so long been in the room above stairs should be placed in the museum for which they were intended. The present a good appearance grouped in two sets of four each on the main floor of the great Hall. I propose that shallow cases be placed on them for the exhibition of the organic remains.

I do not think you need be under any uneasiness as to being drafted. The proclamation of the President in regard to drafting has had the
effect of greatly increasing the number of volunteers and perhaps may ovbiate the necessity of drafting. It is not probable in any case that drafting will be resorted to in the district of Columbia.

Mr. Egleston left on Saturday immediately after reading the first revise of his article in the Report. I kept him here until this should be done for had the proof of the translation been entrusted to others a great fuss would have been made about any errors which might have been found. The minerals as he has left them appear to be a long way yet from completion. The arrangement of our specimens in this line must have been a hurcilian task or our friend Mr. E is not as fast a worker as a talker.

I am very anxious to have every part of the establishment put in as complete order as possible and propose when we return to put all hands for a few weeks into the Library to make out a shelf catalogue of all the books below stairs. We should have a catalogue of every thing in the museum and in the apparatus room.

Dr. Hays has received an appointment to a military Post near St. Francisco for which he starts about the 1st of September with a wife—a young lady of Mf.

We have just past through a remarkable "hot term." The thermometer in our bed rooms stood on Saturday, Sunday & Monday last at 90, 91 & 92 at midnight. The thick walls of the building absorb heat from day to day until before the end of a term they become like the sides of an oven sufficiently hot to cook whatever they may enclose.

It was impossible for me to leave the city until the proof of the report was finished and the last sheet of this was not returned to the printer until yesterday afternoon—The whole volume with the exception of five or six pages has been printed from manuscript which required much correction—

Helen and Carry are going to Shelter Island to visit Mrs Professor Hosford. The remainder of the family will probably spend a few weeks at Sykesville on the Baltimore & Ohio road—

With kind regardt Mrs Baird and Lucy I am

Truly yours

Joseph Henry

Professor Baird

Baird Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Theodore Nicholas Gill (1837–1914), an ichthyologist and the Smithsonian librarian. DSB.

2. Barton Stone Alexander, the army engineer who designed changes to the Smithsonian Building in 1852 and oversaw construction until its completion in 1859. Henry Papers, 8:463n–464n.

3. Solomon G. Brown, the first African-American employee of the Smithsonian, was a laborer and clerk, as well as Baird's confidant. Henry Papers, 9:397n.
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4. In July, the president had called for 300,000 volunteers to serve for three years. That same month, Congress had passed a law making all able-bodied men between eighteen and forty-five members of the state militias and giving the president the power to call the militias to federal service. On August 4, the War Department called upon the states to provide 300,000 militia for nine months of service. Men could be called for involuntary service to fill quotas. States could avoid drafts, however, by meeting their quotas of three-year men and militia through volunteers. Most states were able to avoid an involuntary call-up of the militia. McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom*, pp. 491–493.

5. A Yale graduate, Thomas Egleston (1832–1900) did post-graduate work at the Jardin des plantes and the École des mines in Paris. He returned to the United States in 1861 and undertook the arrangement of the Smithsonian mineral collection. DBR.


7. In addition to arranging and cataloging the collections, Egleston was preparing “a list of all the described species of minerals, with their chemical symbols and systems of crystallization.” *Smithsonian Report for 1863*, p. 25. With additions from other geologists and mineralogists, Egleston’s list was published as *Catalogue of Minerals . . .* (Washington, 1863).

8. William Williams Hays (ca. 1838–1901) was an assistant surgeon who served in Union Hospital in Washington before going west. Prior to graduation from medical school, Hays had worked as a meteorological observer for the Smithsonian and probably lived in the Smithsonian Building. His relationship with Henry was apparently close. In a letter of sympathy to Henry upon learning of the extent of the destruction of the Smithsonian Building by the January 1865 fire, Hays wrote, “My father died when I was so young that I have no remembrance of him, but had he lived, I think I could not have had more love or respect for him, than I have always felt for you—I hope you will pardon me for making this confession.” Lynne Landwehr, “Early Champions in Health: San Luis Obispo County, 1860–1900,” available on San Luis Obispo County Historical Society website; Myron Angel, *History of San Luis Obispo County* (1883; San Miguel, California, 1903), pp. 330–331; John R. Brumgardt, ed., *Civil War Nurse: The Diary and Letters of Hannah Ropes* (Knoxville, Tennessee, 1980), p. 611; Hays to Henry, April 11, 1865, Office of the Secretary, Incoming Correspondence, RU 26, Smithsonian Archives (quotation).

9. Hays’s wife’s identity is uncertain. One biographical source claims she was Sarah Susan Parks of Virginia; another states that her maiden name was Park and that she was from New York. Landwehr; Angel, p. 331.


155. TO ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE

Smithsonian Institution, August 21, 1862

My dear Bache. I saw with much sorrow in the Intelligencer the announcement of the death of your brother-in-law,¹ and although I have never had an opportunity of becoming intimately acquainted with him, yet on your account and that of your bereaved sister, my sympathies have been warmly excited. How frequently you have been called upon to mourn the loss of near relatives within comparatively but a few years; and each loss has not only added to your grief, on account of the departed, but also to your care in regard to the living. You have however had the consolation of knowing that you have well performed the part of a son, a brother and an uncle.

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