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I see by the papers that there have been some very warm and patriotic speeches in Princeton, and that 70 sou[th]ern^A students have taken their leave.²

Great events like those ↑of the↓ present are the result of causes which have been long in operation. A bolder on the edge of a precipice may be toppled over by the hand of a child and produce the most disastrous effects in its descent to the plain below. But it must previously have been placed in the state of tottering equilibrium by the gradual uph[eaval]^B of the mountain chain.

My views of the future are dark. Great chang[e]^B must I think take place in our government but as to the character of the immediate changes I cannot say any thing.

I remain very truly
Your friend
Joseph Henry

Professor Guyot

Guyot Papers, Collections of the Historical Society of Princeton.

1. Not found.

2. With about a third of its students from the South, Princeton was deeply affected by the events at Fort Sumter and President Lincoln's proclamation of a state of insurrection. On April 22, a public meeting was held at Mercer Hall, where professors and students made speeches calling for the defense of the Union and a committee was appointed to recruit volunteers. A procession of citizens also passed through the Princeton campus to elicit support

for the Union. While Northern students had previously tolerated or even sympathized with the views of their fellow students from the South, now that the war had begun the battle lines were drawn. The Southern students began withdrawing from Princeton; none would return in the fall. Thomas Jefferson Wertebaker, *Princeton, 1746-1896* (New Jersey, 1946), pp. 265-267; John F. Hageman, *History of Princeton and Its Institutions*, 2d ed., 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1879), 1:289-292.

113. TO EDWARD DEERING MANSFIELD¹

Smithsonian Institution
May 16th 1861

My Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of the 11th inst² I write to say that the policy adopted by the Smithsonian Institution is to publish additions to knowledge which cannot be given to the world by any other means. If the work you mention will be of sufficient popular interest to repay by its sale, the cost of the publication it should not be issued at the expense of the Smithsonian fund. If on the contrary it will not pay for itself then it ought to be published by the Institution.

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But what ever may be the determination as to this question we shall endeavour to furnish you with any statistics which we may be able to obtain and which may serve to render the work more valuable.³ For this purpose I have thought that the measurement of all the troops, now gathered, in and about Washington, would be of value and I have accordingly made arrangements for having this done.⁴

I have made the acquaintance of your relative General Mansfield,⁵ who has command of the Washington war district. I think him a very good man as well as a very able officer.

I trust the war spirit of the north and north west will not be so intense as to induce the administration to attempt military operations of an important character without due preparation and that since we must have war that it may be as bloodless as possible.

General Totten is not in very good health although he is apparently as chearful and as mentally active as ever.

I remain with much
esteem truly your
Friend
Joseph Henry

Edward D Mansfield Esq

P.S. I forgot to thank you for the copy of the statistics of Ohio⁶ you sent to the Library of the Institution. I have examined it with some care; and am much intered in several points on which it treats. J.H.

Local History and Marine Collection, Milwaukee Public Library.

1. Mansfield was an editor and writer from Cincinnati. His popular works included multiple editions of a biography of Winfield Scott. In addition to being editor of the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, he was commissioner of statistics for Ohio from 1858 to 1868. *Henry Papers*, 7:525n; *DAB*.

2. Not found.

3. We do not know what work is being alluded to. But it may be related to research Mansfield mentions in his annual report as commissioner of statistics for Ohio: "Some years since, aided by Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institution, I commenced an inquiry into the physical characteristics of the Anglo-American." *Fifth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Statistics, to the Governor of the State of Ohio: For the Year 1861* (Columbus, Ohio, 1862), p. 42.

4. This is the first indication of Henry's intent to have the Smithsonian collect data on body measurements of soldiers. We do not know

whether Mansfield's letter spurred this effort or what "arrangements" Henry had made up to this point to begin collecting the data. In a later annual report, Henry states,

At the commencement of the war preparations were made by the Institution to obtain records of the physical characteristics of the soldiers composing the army of the United States, embracing a large number of measurements of different parts of the body, to ascertain the peculiarities of the different nationalities represented. This work was afterwards prosecuted on a much more extended scale than was compatible with the means of the Institution by the Sanitary Commission [*Smithsonian Report for 1865*, pp. 47-48.]

It is not clear how far Henry proceeded with these "preparations" before the United States Sanitary Commission, established in June 1861, began its inquiries along similar lines in

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early 1863. Mansfield, in his 1861 annual report on the statistics for Ohio, asserts that numerous measurements throughout the United States had been made of the physical characteristics of Anglo-Americans, and that "recently Professor Henry has multiplied these by the measurement of many thousand men in the army of the Potomac." *Fifth Annual Report*, p. 42.

Henry had evidently overseen the construction of some apparatus for making physical measurements. But once the Sanitary Commission began its investigations, the Coast Survey would begin constructing apparatus under the supervision of Bache (who was vice-president of the commission in addition to being head of the Coast Survey). The Smithsonian would then assume merely an advisory role, providing "active co-operation and assistance" (*Smithsonian Report for 1862*, p. 14) to the Sanitary Commission, whose investigations were conducted principally by their actuary, Ezekiel B. Elliott. Benjamin Apthorp Gould would take charge of the investigations in June 1864. Benjamin Apthorp Gould, *Investigations in the Military and Anthropological Statistics of American Soldiers* (New York, 1869), pp. v, 218, 234, 385;

E. B. Elliott, *On the Military Statistics of the United States of America* (Berlin, 1863), pp. 10-11.

Taking measurements of the body to determine distinct racial characteristics was the province of anthropometry, a field of anthropology that drew upon Adolphe Quetelet's studies of Belgian soldiers in the 1840s and that became especially active during the American civil war. "Body measurements collected during the war years," according to one historian, "marked the culmination of efforts to measure the various 'races' or 'species' of man and derive a semblance of understanding as to specific racial types." John S. Haller, Jr., *Outcasts from Evolution: Scientific Attitudes of Racial Inferiority, 1859-1900* (Urbana, Illinois, 1971), pp. 7, 19 (quotation), 21.

5. Joseph King Fenno Mansfield (1803-1862), a veteran of the Mexican War and a prominent army engineer with many years of experience in planning and constructing coastal fortifications. He was now commander of the military department of Washington. ANB.

6. Probably the 1859 or 1860 annual report of the commissioner of statistics for Ohio.

114. TO THADDEUS SOBIESKI CONSTANTINE LOWE

Smithsonian Institution,
Washington, May 28, 1861.

Dr Sir,

Your letter¹ and the printed communications² have been duly received, but a press of business has prevented my acknowledging the receipt of them before to-day. I have read with much interest the account of your aerial voyages,³ and regret to inform you that it is impossible to render you any assistance from the Smithsonian fund. No appropriation for this purpose was made by the Board of Regents at their last session, and since that time the political events of the country have rendered it necessary for us to be exceedingly cautious in attempting any new enterprises. I should think however that a considerable sum of money might be realized in the different cities of the Union by the use of the captive balloon in enabling persons to enjoy the rare pleasure of so extended a prospect as that given from your aerial car. It might even be of advantage