

give to the world." Henry to Gray, November 5, 1859, Historic Letters, Archives of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University.

Henry had sought Gray's advice about this same issue some six years earlier. *Henry Papers*, 8:421.

4. Gray was evidently purchasing the stones for his report on forest trees (never published). See Doc. 95.

5. The first volume of Henry Thomas Buckle's *History of Civilization in England* appeared in 1857. Buckle (1821-1862), a self-taught historian from London, has been described as a "brilliant amateur" whose speculations were outdated even for his own time. Though lacking a methodology himself, he popularized the belief that scientific methods could be applied to historical problems; in other words, history, like nature, was governed by laws. According to Asa Gray's biographer, Buckle's *History of Civilization* was "one of the few nonbotanical books which [Joseph] Hooker made Gray read in these years," presumably for its attempt to "reduce history to a statistical science" (*Dupree*, p. 242). Charles Darwin himself had found the work "wonderfully clever and original" (Desmond and Moore, p. 463). *DSB*, s.v. "Darwin, Charles Robert"; Raymond Grew, "The Case of Comparing Histories," *American Historical Review*, 1980, 85:769; A. Hunter Dupree, *Asa Gray, 1810-1888*

(New York, 1968), p. 242; Adrian Desmond and James Moore, *Darwin* (New York, 1991), p. 463.

6. Henry is apparently alluding to his conversations with Gray in Cambridge about geographical distribution. See Doc. 53.

7. Henry has in mind Thomas Malthus's social theory that population increases at a faster rate than the production of food supplies, which contributed to Darwin's thinking about natural selection as applied to plants and animals. Malthus's theory provoked strong criticism, primarily because of its possible implications for nineteenth-century welfare policies. It also had possible religious implications, such as bringing into question God's benevolence. *DSB*, s.v. "Darwin, Charles Robert" and "Malthus, Thomas Robert"; D. L. LeMahieu, "Malthus and the Theology of Scarcity," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, 1979, 40:467-474.

8. In September the naturalist Sir William Jardine (1800-1874, *DNB*), delivering his address as president of the section on botany and zoology at the British Association for the Advancement of Science, looked forward to the publication of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, "from which we may expect some curious reasonings." "Notes and Abstracts of Miscellaneous Communications to the Sections," *British Association Report for 1859*, p. 129.

9. Not found.

## 62. FROM THEODORE BROWN

St. Matthew's P.O. Ky.  
Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> 1859.

Professor Henry:

Dear Sir— The leisure of the Fall has enabled me to give a careful perusal to ~~your~~ the portions of your "Essay on Meteorology as Connected with Agriculture" which are published in ↑the↓ Patent Office Reports for 1856 & 1857<sup>1</sup> which you were kind enough to send me.<sup>2</sup>

To say that the perusal interested me is "faint praise"; I hope to derive much profit from the light shed upon many of the processes of nature, and as you justly remark the information conveyed "is not readily accessible" to those who must depend mainly upon Bookstores— I am one of the farmers who look for great improvement to Agriculture from the application of Science in it's various branches, and perhaps Meteorology as a science is less understood by farmers than any other— It's value however would be acknowledged by ↑many↓ even of the practical farmers who scoff at Science generally as of any [---] utility to them. I hope great



November 7, 1859 (Doc. 63)

progress will be made in Meteorology from the systematic & widely extended efforts being now made in our country under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution and the Patent Office, and I must say the Patent Office Reports ~~are~~ will be entitled to much more respect that they receive in some quarters as long as they continue <sup>↑</sup>to be<sup>↓</sup> the vehicles of such ~~papers~~ contributions as some I have read, to the subjects of Meteorology & Entomology— Will you do me the favour to regard me a permanent beneficiary of your Noble Institution, and remit to me any publications of a scientific character which bear upon my pursuit, that may be intended for distribution.

Let me at present bespeak especially the portions of your Essay published in the Report for 1855,<sup>3</sup> and that which you expected to follow the report for 1857<sup>4</sup>— If Professor Espy's Reports<sup>5</sup> differ ~~of~~ from your's & still like them have any Agricultural bearing, I should be very thankful for them also— Prof. Maury's "Physical Geography of the Sea" I have read. I hope you will not regard me troublesome.

Yours very respectfully  
Theodore Brown

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

1. Henry, "Meteorology," 1856; 1857.
2. Brown had requested the articles in an earlier letter. Brown to Henry, May 10, 1859, Incoming Correspondence, Meteorological Project, RU 60, Smithsonian Archives.
3. Henry, "Meteorology," 1855.
4. Henry, "Meteorology," 1858.
5. The most recent of Espy's reports was his *Fourth Meteorological Report*, U.S. Senate, 34th Congress, 3d Session, Senate Executive Documents, No. 65 [1857].

### 63. TO CHESTER DEWEY

Smithsonian Institution  
Washington D.C. Nov 7<sup>th</sup> 1859

Dear Sir,

Your letter<sup>1</sup> of Sept 13<sup>th</sup> was duly received, but my absence from the city, and a press of business since my return, has prevented an earlier acknowledgement of its valuable contents in relation to storms.

The facts and suggestions which you have made in regard to this subject, you will find in the main to agree with that I had given in the last Report of the Patent Office,<sup>2</sup> to which I now call your attention, and ask that you will give me any criticisms in regard to it which you may think fit. My object is truth, and I have no pet hypothesis to support.