

October 23, 1872 (Doc. 198)

1876. Henry to Dall, November 27, 1872, Dall Papers, Smithsonian Archives (quotation); *DAB*.

18. Henry Wood Elliott married Aleksandra Aleksandrova Milovidov, a fourteen-year-old of Russian and Aleut ancestry, in Alaska on July 10,

1872. Her family was of some prominence in the former Russian sealing community. Robert L. Shalkop, "Introduction," *Henry Wood Elliott, 1846-1930: A Retrospective Exhibition* (Anchorage, 1982), pp. 11-12.

198. TO JOHN TYNDALL

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,^A
WASHINGTON,^A Oct 23rd 1872^B

My Dear Professor

Mr. Rhees has informed ↑me↓ of the great success of your first lecture and of the warm reception you met with in Boston. I am not surprised at this since no one is more favourable known in this reading country than yourself. Indeed we are constantly receiving letters of inquiry as to the possibility of inducing you to visit almost all parts of the United States.

Had your object been money you might have realized a large sum; and in this case we would have given you in charge to a Lecture Bureau: But as we understood your object was not money we made an arrangement for your first appearance at the Lowell Institute, the most respectable lecturing establishment in this country. The remuneration however which you will receive, since the lectures are entirely free to the public, is not as great as that which you might have obtained had the plan been adopted which is proposed for New-York and Philadelphia. In making the arrangement with the Lowell Institute I was governed by what I considered your feelings, and I trust it will prove satisfactory. Although you will not be able to realize as much of what is considered among us as the great essential of life; I am sure you will do much good by your advocacy of the importance of abstract science in its relation to the advance of civilization and the importance of making provision for original research. The truth is that the teachers of science in this country have so much to do ~~and~~ and are so poorly paid that they have neither the time nor the means for investigation. So low has been the estimate of the value of pure science and so great the demand for what is called practical skill that few among us have devoted themselves to the advancement of science.¹

It is only after twenty five years of constant struggle and entire devotion to the Smithsonian Institution, that I am now beginning to bring the government, and the public generally into a proper understanding of the terms of the bequest; namely the "increase and the diffusion of knowledge among men" and preventing the income from being expended on local objects having no bearing on the advance of science.

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The distinction between the three important relations of scientific knowledge have not either in this country or in England been properly recognized; namely (1) The discovery of new scientific principles— (2ⁿ) The teaching of these principles and (3rd) The application of these principles to useful purposes in the arts of life.

The 2nd of these relations, have been provided for in our colleges and universities, and the 3rd in our patent laws; but the first has^C been almost entirely neglected.

There are however many wealthy men in this country who may be induced to found establishments for original investigation and in advocating the importance of pure science you have a theme worthy of all your eloquence; the advocacy of which may tend to ↑the↓ realization of the conception of Bacon, of a Solomon's House as set forth in his new Atlantis.²

I hope to meet you either in Phil^d or in Baltimore and to have you as my guest while you are in Washington. I found Sir Frederic Arrow a man of clear head and warm heart and shall ever retain for him a warm regard.

Truly your friend &—
Joseph Henry

Professor John Tyndall

RI MS JT/1/H/77, Tyndall Papers, Archives, Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Draft: October 22, 1872, RH 3286, Rhees Collection, Huntington Library. Partial copy: October 22, 1872, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives. Reply: October 26, 1872, RH 3970, Rhees Collection, Huntington Library.

1. Tyndall replied that he was glad to receive Henry's letter prior to his final lecture in Boston, "as it caused me to add emphasis to what I had to say regarding the claims of the original investigator." According to the newspaper coverage of his last lecture, Tyndall protested "the tendency" of American youth to "leave the fields of original investigation for more utilitarian pursuits." He urged successful businessmen to "lend their aid in encouraging original investigation as the fountainhead from which their resources had been drawn." He also pleaded that these

investigators be given "full scope," and not be loaded down "with the burdens of a teacher." *Boston Globe*, October 26, 1872.

2. In his posthumously published *New Atlantis*, the English philosopher Francis Bacon (*Henry Papers*, 3:475n-477n) described a collaborative organization to increase scientific knowledge, which he called Salomon's House. The members of this college were provided the laboratories and other tools necessary for the proper exploration of nature. *DSB*.