

January 15, 1831

I found room only to crowd in two lines with respect to the revolving experiment⁴ & shall be pleased to receive a notice of that or any facts for the April N^o.

I remain dear sir yours very truly & respectfully

B Silliman.

then a partner in the firm of Little and Cummings. Munsell, *Ann. Alb.*, 9:233, 234, 243. The firm came into existence in 1828. In addition to acting as Silliman's agent in Albany, Little was a successor of E. F. Backus in the publication and sale of law books. *Howell and*

Tenney, p. 702.

⁴ A reference to the lines which Silliman excerpted from Henry's letter to him of December [2]8, 1830, and printed at the end of Henry's article, at the bottom of page 408. See that letter printed above, especially footnote 8.

TO BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, SR.

Daniel C. Gilman Collection, Library, Johns Hopkins University

Albany Jan 15th 1831

Dear Sir

Yours of the 6th inst¹ was received three days since. I am happy to learn that you think my paper an interesting one and shall consider myself honored by any quotation you may please to make from it in your book on Chemistry. I have no other results to communicate at present as I have not made any experiments on this subject since I sent the paper but from those before made I think it is certain that no greater result than that stated (750 lb) can be obtained by a piece of iron of the size used in these experiments or in other words the iron appears to be magnetized to perfect saturation.

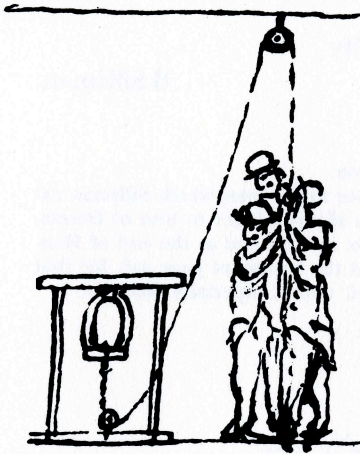
I commenced to day with the construction of your large magnet by drawing the plan of the iron part & it is now in the hands of the forger. I found some difficulty in procuring in Albany a piece of iron of the size and some little delay will also be caused by having to send to New York for copper wire of the proper diameter since the navigation of the Hudson is interrupted by ice.

The whole apparatus can be finished by the first week of next month. I am some what at a loss to know how I shall forward it to New Haven at this season of the year but perhaps you can direct some method of conveyance or I may possibly find some person with whom I can send it. I will try the method you suggest with regard to exhibiting the power of the magnet by

¹ See above.

January 22, 1831

several men drawing at a rope. I would however propose a slight alteration in the method of applying the power which would consist in having a pulley



fixed to the floor directly under the magnet and a second pulley to the ceiling of the room—a rope passing through these from armature would hang like a bell rope. Several men might hang their weight on this and the number be increased until the armature separated. By this arrangement each person could pull no more than his weight and as it would sustain 4 or 5 ordinary sized men the exhibition would be interesting. I usually show the power of the magnet by suspending from it by means of the scale beneath ten 60 lb weights which it readily sustains. On withdrawing the cup

containing the diluted acid from the small battery the whole weight falls with a great noise.

The journal has not yet reached Albany. I have no fears with regard to the accuracy of the printing of the paper. Please accept my sincere thanks for the agreeable and unexpected favour of the 50 copies to distribute among my friends.

I am Sir with much respect
Your humbl serv.
Joseph Henry

FROM NATHANIEL SCUDDER PRIME¹

Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives

Mount Pleasant² Jan. 22nd 1831

Dear Sir,

Having a private opportunity to Albany, I write to request the favour which I intimated when I had the pleasure of seeing you last.

I wish a set of magnets similar to those I saw you use.³ If you can have

¹Prime (1785–1856) was a Presbyterian clergyman and a Princeton graduate (1806). He is described as an advocate of temperance and moral reform. *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*.

²Westchester County, New York.

³We have no information on Prime's visit with Henry, or whether Prime saw Henry's demonstration before the Albany Institute.