

December 20, 1836

given to the College. An effort is talked of but I fear nothing will be accomplished.<sup>8</sup>

In haste with  
Friendship and Esteem  
Yours &c  
Jos Henry

<sup>8</sup> We have found no evidence that Princeton received any of the money. In Connecticut, Wesley College (Wesleyan) and Washington

College (Trinity) petitioned for an annual allowance. Bourne, *Surplus Revenue*, p. 34.

FROM MAHLON DICKERSON<sup>1</sup>

*Miscellaneous Letters Sent, Office of the Secretary of the Navy, Volume 23,  
RG 45, National Archives*

Navy Department December 15<sup>th</sup> 1836

Sir,

As you have bestowed more attention upon the subject of Magnetism than any other person probably in this country it occurs to me that you might propose a series of enquiries, to be made by our Scientific Corps to be attached to the South Sea Exploring expedition that would lead to the promotion of this particular Science. Should you be of opinion with me I would thank you to send me such enquiries as you may think proper.

I am w<sup>th</sup> gr<sup>t</sup> respect, Mahlon Dickerson.

<sup>1</sup> Also printed in *House Executive Documents*, 25th Congress, 2d Session, 1837-1838, No. 147, p. 205.

FROM JOHN VAN BUREN<sup>1</sup>

*Joseph Henry Papers, Library, American Philosophical Society*

Albany Dec<sup>r</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1836.

My dear Sir,

It gives me great pleasure to inclose you a letter<sup>2</sup> to my father as you desire & I trust it may further your wishes.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John Van Buren (1810-1866) was educated at the Albany Academy (entered in 1817) and Yale (graduated in 1828). He became a leading figure in the Albany bar and the New York State Democratic party. Considered by some to be the most outstanding orator of his day,

Van Buren eventually became a spokesman for the Free Soil movement. *DAB*; Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., *The Age of Jackson* (Boston, 1945), pp. 398-400, 461-463, 482-483.

<sup>2</sup> Not found.

<sup>3</sup> Henry wanted Martin Van Buren, the