

October 19, 1847

Lieut. Maury, with reference to a letter of mine addressed to Professor Schumacher, accompanying an abstract of Mr. Walker's researches. So many storms made me almost call for my boots, but I believe I shall be able to stand my ground, and live through them all, and that too without much disquietude. I am resolved not to allow Maury to draw me into a newspaper controversy, and accordingly gave him a civil answer, with a small flourish towards the end, in the way of hands off. I have heard nothing from him since, though my letter was mailed more than a week ago.

The second:

My visit to Albany was quite a pleasant one, Mr. Hawley appeared quite pleased with the plans and prospects of the Smithsonian. Also Dr. Beck gave the programme his approbation and is particularly in favor of the publication of memoirs and the formation of a library, of the transactions of all the learned societies of the world.

Reply: Doc. 117.

1. This copy is in the Bache Papers, Smithsonian Archives; the retained copy is Doc. 100.

2. Doc. 91.

3. Mary Blechynden Bache Walker (1808-1873), Bache's closest sibling in age, was the wife of Secretary of the Treasury Robert J. Walker and had at least two children by this time. Leonard W. Labaree, ed., *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin* (New Haven, 1959), 1:lxv; James Dallas, *The History of the Family of Dallas* (Edinburgh, 1921), p. 514.

4. William Cook (ca. 1801-1865) was the chief engineer of both the Camden and Amboy Railroad and the Philadelphia and Trenton Railroad. A graduate of the United States Mil-

itary Academy, Cook was at this time an officer in the New Jersey militia. His wife was Robert J. Walker's sister. George W. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*, 3d ed. revised and extended (Boston, 1891), 1:280; *DAB*, s.v. "Cook, Martha Elizabeth Duncan Walker."

5. October 14.

6. Samuel Miller (*Henry Papers*, 2:438n) and Archibald Alexander (*Henry Papers*, 2:437n-438n) of the Princeton Theological Seminary were both in their seventies.

7. Doc. 104.

8. Doc. 107.

#### 115. TO SAMUEL FOSTER HAVEN<sup>1</sup>

Princeton Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1847

My Dear Sir

In a conversation which I have just had with a gentleman who is well acquainted with Worcester, I am informed that after having visited the mounds, figured and described by Messrs. Davis and Squire, you were not well pleased with the execution of their work and that in your opinion these gentlemen have not been as thorough or as accurate in their investigations as they ought to have been.<sup>2</sup> If there be any truth in this statement I beg that you will give me some information on the subject. Our object is the advance of positive knowledge, and not to add to the existing stock of error. If there be any imperfections or errors in the drawings or descriptions they should be corrected and amended before the memoir is published.

The committee of the ethnological society have spoken highly of the work but I must confess that I am a little startled by what I have heard

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and am very anxious to hear from your ↑self↓ withreference to the matter. We are comparatively strangers to each other so far as personal intercourse is necessary to an acquaintance but from what I saw of you in New York and from what I have since heard of your character I am disposed to put full confidence in your judgement and candor.

In reference to subjects of physical Science I should have little difficulty in judging myself of the truthfulness of an article but in regard to the character of a Memoir on Antiquities I must trust entirely to others.

Enclosed with this note I send you a printed copy of the Programme of ↑the↓ plan of organization of the Smithsonian Institution and I beg leave through you to present it to the ↑A.A.↓ society and to ask if it be compatible with your rules to give me an expression of opinion as to the character of the plan; particularly with reference to that part of it which relates to the increase and diffusion of knowledge by means of publications and researches and which is given on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pages of the programme. It should be the object of the Smithsonian Institution to co-operate with other Institutions and not to interfere with them and ↑we↓ would therefore be pleased to receive any suggestions from your society which might serve to direct us as to any future expenditures in the cause of American Antiquities.

I made a visit a short time since to Boston and started from home with the intention of calling to see you but I was prevented by some engagements from doing so. I regret this because we might have discussed matters much more effectually by conversation than by writing.

I find the plan of expending a part of the funds of the Smithsonian bequest in the publication of original memoirs takes well with the Geologists<sup>A</sup> and naturalists. The illustrations of their labours frequently cost more than they can afford to expend on them and on this account many valuable articles never see the light.

The plan which I have given of the organization of the Smithsonian Institution can be modified or adopted in part to suit the income or the experience which time will afford. Please let me hear from you at your earliest convenience and,

Permit me to assure you that  
I am with much Respect  
very truly yours &  
Joseph Henry

Samuel F Haven Esq  
Librarian of the A A Society  
Worcester.

October 22, 1847

Miscellaneous Collections, American Antiquarian Society.  
Reply: See Doc. 118.

1. Haven (1806–1881) was librarian of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, from 1838 until his death. Essentially an executive director, Haven also functioned as manuscript curator and librarian and was known for his intelligent assistance to scholars. His own research interests included archeology. *Dictionary of American Library Biography* (Littleton, Colorado, 1978).

2. Haven had visited Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1845 and become familiar with Squier and Davis's work. He described their contributions in his *Archaeology of the United States*, 1856, SI Contributions, vol. 8 (Washington, 1856), pp. 117–123.

116. FROM [FRANCIS LIEBER]^

Oct. 22. 1847.

To Professor Henry of the Smithsonian Institute

. . . As to the Board of Statistics on which you desire my views in consequence of our conversation at Princeton<sup>1</sup> they are briefly these: Statistics, rightly understood, become in the same degree more important as civilisation advances, because man's activity becomes intenser and more expanded and he presses more and more natural agents into service, while one of the blessed effects of civilisation is, that the various parts of society become more dependent upon one another. This is felt everywhere and a proportionate attention is paid to statistics; but, owing to our peculiar circumstances resulting from our federal character, the extensiveness of our territories, and the earnestness with which we are naturally yet engaged in subduing the land, and in a general point of view in mastering the material world, there is no country which stands more in need of correct and comprehensive statistics, and in which it is as difficult to collect them. No private means can accomplish it. Besides the Census, a constitutional periodical duty of our Government, leads to the desire of seeing a Board established, which may be expected to furnish substantial plans for undertaking it properly and experienced men to digest the materials correctly and judiciously.<sup>2</sup> Our Census is near ↑at hand↓ and the last one has been stigmatized as very incorrect.<sup>3</sup> I have written therefore to several of my friends in Congress that they ought to prepare in time for it. I intended to have taken the liberty of conversing with our very able Secretary of the Treasury who seems to me of a peculiarly quick perception for every thing substantially good, on this important subject, when I passed the last time through Washington, but several attempts on my part to see him failed, and the time had