

November 22, 1851

assured that I remain very truly your friend & servt Joseph Henry
Dec 16th 1851 Since writing the foregoing I have learned from a reliable
source that President Fillmore will [--] decline a nomination and that
Gen Scott is to be the Whig candidate.⁸

Marsh Papers, University of Vermont Library.

1. Not found.
2. Stephen A. Douglas, Democratic senator from Illinois, gave an impromptu address to the annual agricultural exhibition and cattle show of the Maryland State Agricultural Society. Douglas called for the establishment of a national agricultural society, to which the Smithsonian might become an adjunct. He asserted, as paraphrased in a newspaper report, that "the development of genius and art, as it relates to the cultivation of our broad territory, is quite as useful and beneficial as discoveries in the moon, or attempts to establish abstract theories in science without practical results." *Baltimore Sun*, October 25, 1851; the paraphrase was reprinted in the *National Intelligencer*, October 29, 1851.
3. For the use of this term to indicate Washington, see *Henry Papers*, 6:19n.
4. Douglas, Lewis Cass, and James Buchanan were the leading candidates going into the May 1852 Democratic convention. None of them were able to secure the necessary two-thirds majority, and the convention finally turned to

Franklin Pierce. David M. Potter, *Impending Crisis, 1848-1861* (New York, 1976), pp. 141-142.

5. Winfield Scott was commander of the United States Army. *Henry Papers*, 7:365n.

6. Louis Kossuth (1802-1894), one of the leaders of the unsuccessful Hungarian revolution of 1848, was received as a champion of liberty when he visited the United States in December 1851. He came in response to an invitation authorized by a joint congressional resolution. John H. Komlos, *Louis Kossuth in America: 1851-1852* (Buffalo, 1973).

7. William Orlando Butler had been the Democratic candidate for vice-president in 1848. Like Scott, he was a hero of the Mexican War. *Henry Papers*, 7:367n.

8. Fillmore did run for the Whig nomination against Scott, but failed. It took fifty-three ballots at the June 1852 convention before Scott, the candidate of the North, defeated Fillmore, who had the support of the delegates from the South. Potter, pp. 232-234.

157. TO INCREASE ALLEN LAPHAM

Smithsonian Institution
Nov. 22nd 1851

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter of the 15th inst^l I am pleased to inform you that the resolution of the antiquarian society turning over to this institution the results of your explorations for publication is as gratifying to me as to yourself. This resolution is in the true spirit of science and in strict accordance with the plan of Smithsonian operations. We wish to co-operate with all other institutions and with individuals in the important cause of the advance of truth and the extension of the bounds of human knowledge and human power.

I have no suggestions to make which have not probably presented themselves to your mind. The value of observations of the kind on which you are engaged depends almost entirely on their minute accu-

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racy. The facts should be stated just as they are without regard to pre-conceived opinions or proposed hypotheses. All the measurements ought to be executed with care and every appearance however trivial ought to be noticed. Sketches and notes ought to be taken on the spot and nothing left to after memory.

I think it important that the relative position of the mounds should be taken and it may be well to accompany your memoir with a map of the country on which the position of each mound is indicated. I think it important that the distribution of the works of the mound builders should be accurately determined & for this purpose it will be advisable to collect all the reliable information as to the locations of mounds which you can obtain though you may not be able to visit them yourself— I presume much valuable information on this point may be obtained from the surveyors of the public lands— Do not be afraid of putting down too much—what is irrelevant can be omitted ↑by those↓ who use the materials in the way of deducing general principles.

Your memoir should be principally a statement of facts and though you may give your hypotheses they should be subordinate to the facts. We are as yet only collecting the bricks of the temple of American Antiquities which are hereafter to be arranged and fashioned into a durable edifice; it ↑is therefore↓ of the first importance that our materials should be of the proper kind.

We have found some difficulty in making out the topography of some of the maps and plans we have received and I would call your attention to this point. The different surfaces of ground should be indicated by on the drawing so that it may be filled up by the engraver. I would also call attention to the fact that your drawings should be so arranged as to conform to the quarto pages of the Smithsonian volume— Accompanying this letter we send you a pattern sheet.

Professor Guyot is engaged in preparing a set of tables and instructions for the use of the barometer— A copy of this will be sent you as soon as they are printed.

I remain very truly
your obt. servt
Joseph Henry

P.S. on a former occasion we sent you a copy of Squiers N. York Ab. Mon. by mail, franked—if you can point out a safer mode of conveyance, we have another copy which is at your service.² E.F.

Lapham Papers, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

Postscript in Edward Foreman's hand. Reply: Lapham to Foreman, December 1, 1851, Letters

November 28, 1851

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

1. Not found. However, there is a draft dated November 1, 1851, in the same location as Henry's letter, in which Lapham raised a number of points that Henry appears to be answering in this letter. In reference to his study of mounds in Wisconsin, Lapham asked if Henry had "any important suggestions to make" in preparing it for publication. He told Henry that he never re-

ceived his promised copy of E. G. Squier's *Aboriginal Monuments of the State of New-York*, 1850, SI Contributions, vol. 2 (Washington, 1851). Lapham also inquired about alternative methods to reduce meteorological observations.

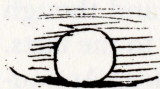
2. In his reply, Lapham asked Foreman to send the Squier publication by franked mail.

158. "RECORD OF EXPERIMENTS"

S Inst

Nov 28 [1851]^A

It is well known that bubbles of air apparently adhere to the sides of a tumbler of water when placed under the exhausted receiver. In observing this phenomenon this evening the cause of the adhesion presented itself to my mind. The cause of the apparent cohesion appears to be this.^B



Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

159. TO ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE

[November 1851]^A

My Dear B.

Your letter¹ of this morning came to the Smithsonian when I was out and therefore I could not return an answer in time to your kind invitation to dinner. The thermometer this morning was at $+8^{\circ}$ a temperature to bitter to be palatable in the way of dining out or in visiting.

I shall however much regret if my no answer prevented a chair at your hospitable table being filled by a better and less common guest than myself—

Do you start tomorrow for Phil^d and if so do you wish to take with you the signals?² I think they would afford a good talk for our "grand mother."² If you do I will send up the whole set—if not perhaps they had better receive another coat of paint. I send one set.

I also send you a copy of the propositions agreed upon by H. B. Wallace³ and myself as to the disposition of Dr. Hares apparatus.⁴ I have