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nological History of the Library of Congress (Washington, 1979), pp. 21-23. For some of the contemporary debate on the definition of the library in the aftermath of the fire, see the *National Intelligencer*, January 14, April 8, and April 14, 1852.

11. Article not found. An article by "W." in the *New York Herald* described the Smithsonian's founding and programs in favorable terms, although the author complained that the lectures were not published, and thus benefited only those who could attend, and that the building had "no claim to architectural beauty or design." *New York Herald*, December 29, 1851.

12. Lorin Blodget (1823-1901) had been a meteorological observer for the Smithsonian since 1849. Henry hired him as a temporary clerk to reduce and discuss the meteorological data generated by the observers and prepare them for publication. Blodget later clashed with Henry over the terms of his employment and his publication of Smithsonian data without authorization; he left the Smithsonian for good in October 1854. His *Climatology of the United States* (Philadelphia, 1857) was based heavily on Smithsonian data. *DAB*; Fleming, *Meteorology*, pp. 110-115.

13. Letter not found; probably relating to James Henry's estate.

14. According to Henry's diary, the other guests included Senator Lewis Cass of Michigan, General Winfield Scott, former New York governor William Henry Seward, Hungarian revolutionary Louis Kossuth, Speaker of the House Linn Boyd of Kentucky, President of the Senate Asbury Dickens of North Carolina, Secretary of State Daniel Webster, and Commodore

Charles Morris, Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography. Desk Diary, January 3, 1852.

15. Conway Robinson (1805-1884), a prominent Richmond lawyer interested in legal and historical scholarship. *DAB*.

16. Robinson was apparently acting on behalf of the Richmond Athenaeum, a newly formed organization which was planning a program in which "a judicious system of public lectures" would be prominent. The organizers hoped to benefit from "our proximity to Washington and the Smithsonian Institute, where such lecturers are expected to be constantly invited and in attendance," assuming that lecturers could therefore be booked "at a comparatively moderate expense." *Southern Literary Messenger*, 1851, 17:684-686 (quotations on p. 685); *Smithsonian Report for 1852*, p. 27.

17. Benjamin Apthorp Gould delivered a course of six lectures in March 1852 on recent work in astronomy. *Smithsonian Report for 1852*, p. 29.

18. Arnold Guyot did not lecture until 1853.

19. Louis Agassiz delivered six lectures in March 1852 on "Foundations of Symmetry in the Animal Kingdom." *Smithsonian Report for 1852*, p. 29.

20. Charles Frédéric Girard (1822-1895), a native of France, came to the United States as an assistant to Louis Agassiz in 1847. A zoologist, Girard spent ten years at the Smithsonian (1850-1860) as Baird's assistant. Girard's Smithsonian work focused on reptiles and fishes collected by various government expeditions. *DAB*. Elliott, *Dictionary*.

## 166. FROM WILLIAM BACON<sup>1</sup>

Jany 3-4<sup>th</sup> 1852—

Dear Sir,

I wrote last summer asking you a copy of reports of Regents of Smithsonian Ins and was informed that it was then in press, and when it came out I should have a copy.<sup>2</sup> No such thing has been rec<sup>d</sup> I wrote earlier, last spring I think, making enquiries for Prof Gray's work and was informed he was then in England and it would go to press when he returned, since which I have heard nothing of it.<sup>3</sup>

I have now furnished you with a meteorological record for a long time, which I have endeavored at a sacrifice to make correct and believe it to be so. It is but very little I have rec<sup>d</sup> from your Ins, while I believe

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you furnish to Colleges and some other institutions full copies of your publications.<sup>4</sup> I don,t know why so wide a distinction between corporate ins whose officers<sup>A</sup> are salaried and which are furnished from time to time with public funds and an individual who is plodding on, depending alone on his personal resources and gaining his bread by the daily labor of his hands. I do not say, however, but it is right for you to do so, but I do say, for the love of truth and Justice do not call that an institution for the benefit of mankind, which dispenses its favor in so partial a manner.

I do not propose to stop keeping a journal, for I see their utility and approve of the plan of collecting observation from all the different localities in the Country. But I owe myself a duty. When I sow in spring I expect to ge ↑reap↓ my bread. When I shear the fleece I expect clothing. So when the body labors I expect that which will feed and clothe the body. Is it right for the mind to be kept in toil and yet go in hunger and nakedness? If it is, indolence may as well add to the deformity and aid in the progress of intellectual death.<sup>5</sup>

William Bacon  
Richmond, Mass

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

Reply: Edward Foreman to Bacon, January 9, 1852, Press Copies of Letters Sent, 1851-1853, Records of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, Records of the Weather Bureau, RG 27, National Archives.

1. A farmer in western Massachusetts and a Smithsonian meteorological observer since 1849. *Henry Papers*, 7:549n.

2. Bacon's undated letter, presumably written in early June 1851, is in the same location as this letter. Foreman had replied that the 1850 annual report was still at the printer and that Henry would be pleased to see Bacon at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Albany. Foreman to Bacon, June 10, 1851, Press Copies of Letters Sent, 1851-1853, Records of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, Records of the Weather Bureau, RG 27, National Archives.

3. Bacon's undated inquiry about Gray's work (in same location as this letter) was appar-

ently sent with his observations for March. Foreman had replied on April 8 (Press Copies of Letters Sent, 1851-1853, Records of the Smithsonian Meteorological Project, Records of the Weather Bureau, RG 27, National Archives). Gray's report on forest trees was never published.

4. For Henry's policy, which Bacon stated correctly, see *Henry Papers*, 7:434.

5. Foreman replied that the annual report had been sent two weeks earlier and that other works had also been sent. He closed by assuring Bacon that "we endeavor to do all we can as promptly and efficiently as possible, to remunerate our excellent observers among whom I have always classed yourself."