

June 1, 1853

272. TO EDWARD SABINE

Smithsonian Inst  
June 1<sup>st</sup> 1853

Dear Sir

We have no copies [of th]e proceedings of the American [A]ssociation at our disposal<sup>1</sup> but I have directed that a set be purchased at the exp[en]se of the Institution and sent to you in the packages of [. . .] exchanges which will be shipped in the course of a few days.

You will please accept these books in part return for the service you have at different times rendered the Institution in the purchase of instruments &c.

Professor Bache still continues the explorat[ion] of so much of the Gul[f Str]eam as lies within the [purview] of the survey of the co[ast of] the United States but he is anxious on account of the interest of science that the exploration should be extended so as to embrace the whole of this remark[able] current. This howe[ver] cannot be effected without the co-operation of the two governments.

He thinks the best plan would be to bring the subject before the British and American association and through these bodies to act on the government of each country.<sup>2</sup> I agree with him in this opinion and hope that you will move in the matter at the next meeting of the association.<sup>3</sup>

The Expedition under Dr. Kane was to start from N.Y. yesterday and I presume has got off. It is tolerably well supplied with instruments and can hardly fail to collect some facts of scientific interest.

Our<sup>A</sup> magnetic house is nearly ready for mounting the instruments. It has cost however considerably more than the estimate and with the fixtures for gas will run up to about 1600 dolls.

The institution is I think doing good service to the cause of science though its usefulness has been much abridged by the expenditure on a fantastic and almost useless building.

I remain very truly  
Your obt. servt.  
Joseph Henry

Col. Sabine  
R.A.

BJ3/49. Letters to Sabine from Renwick and Henry, 1845-1853, Sabine Papers, Records of Kew Observatory, Public Record Office, Kew.  
Paper torn along fold. Reply not found, but according to file notation dated June 24, 1853, and "(not in the Book)."

June 1, 1853

1. Henry is responding to a request in Sabine's letter to him of May 31, 1853, Retained Copy, BJ3/30, Copies of Correspondence to and from Magnetic Dept. re Domestic and Foreign Observatories, 1841-59, Sabine Papers, Records of Kew Observatory, Public Record Office, Kew.

2. Bache had been in correspondence with Sabine, as president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and Sir Francis Beaufort, Hydrographer to the Admiralty, in an attempt to coordinate studies of the Gulf Stream by the two nations. The English had insisted that Bache had to go through official diplomatic channels to make his request. Bache wanted to settle all the scientific issues before making any official request. Bache to Sabine, May 20, 1853, BJ3/25, Letters from Americans re Magnetic Observatory in the United States, Sabine Pa-

pers, Records of Kew Observatory, Public Record Office, Kew; Bache to Beaufort, May 20, 1853, Archives, Hydrographic Department, Ministry of Defense, United Kingdom; Bache to Henry, May 30, 1853, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives; *British Association Report for 1853*, pp. xxv-xxvii.

3. There is nothing in the *British Association Report for 1853* which suggests that Sabine changed his mind about Bache going through official diplomatic channels. Complicating the issue, Matthew Fontaine Maury had earlier taken that approach in suggesting cooperative hydrographic observations. The British Association was already placing pressure on the British government to support Maury's proposal. *British Association Report for 1853*, pp. xxvii, xxxii-xxxiii.

### 273. FROM BENJAMIN APTHORP GOULD

Prof Joseph Henry  
Secy Smithsonian Institution

Cambridge 1853 June 1

My Dear Sir

You will remember that I had some conversation with you in Washington<sup>1</sup> relative to the means of speedy transmission of the "Astronomical Journal" to European Academies of Sciences, Universities and Observatories— I take the liberty of writing you now to recall the subject to your mind in case you should see fit to use your influence and that of the Smithsonian Institution to obtain some privileges for the Astron. Journal which I am desirous of securing, and yet unwilling to ask as a private citizen.

There are but three publications in the world dedicated to the advancement of astronomical science. These are the Proceedings of the Royal Astronomical Society of London;—the "Astronomische Nachrichten" founded at Altona by the late Prof. Schumacher<sup>A</sup>;—and the Astronomical Journal. The two former are liberally supported by the governments of their respective countries,—the first moreover, being in part used for the diffusion as well as increase of astronomical knowledge, and not partaking of the periodical character of the last two,—which are, strictly speaking, the only astronomical journals of the world.

The origin of the Astron. Journal, you well know, my dear Sir, having aided it by your counsel and kindly sympathies, & assisted in extending