

December 27, 1850

6. This is a slip of the pen. The only paper Sabine published in the 1849 *Phil. Trans.* interprets a map of magnetic observations in the Atlantic Ocean. Sabine evidently meant his 1850 *Phil. Trans.* paper, which he cited and described in his May letter to Henry.

7. Edward Everett had been minister to Great Britain from 1841 to 1845. *Henry Papers*, 6:374n.

8. George Bancroft, Lawrence's predecessor. *Henry Papers*, 7:183n.

## 80. FROM HOWARD STANSBURY<sup>1</sup>

Washington December 27. 1850

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry<sup>2</sup> relative to the disposition made of the two Barometers taken charge of by me for the Smithsonian Institution, on my recent Expedition to the Salt Lake Valley,<sup>3</sup> I enclose you an extract from a letter I wrote to you on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July 1849,<sup>4</sup> which will give you the desired information respecting one of them.<sup>5</sup> That letter I suspect, never reached you, the messenger having been killed on the plains by Indians.

With regard to the second I was not so fortunate. Having accidentally broken my only one, I retained that of the Institution during my stay<sup>A</sup> at the City of the Great Salt Lake, and observations were regularly made with it for about the space of one year, the results of which will be probably published.<sup>6</sup> Should they not be so, a transcript of the observations will be furnished to the Institution. In attempting to bring it with me on my return, the dryness of the climate had so warped the wood work, that the attempt to transport it on a mule caused it to leak so badly that it became useless, & it was therefore abandoned.

I intend however to replace it by another, & propose to send it to Salt Lake City, next summer, by a gentleman residing there, & who is now here. There is no permanent post at Fort Hall<sup>7</sup> at present.

Very Respectfully  
Howard Stansbury

Professor Joseph Henry  
Smithsonian Institution.

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

1. Stansbury (1806–1863), a graduate of the Albany Academy who was two classes ahead of Henry there, was a captain in the Corps of Topographical Engineers. *DAB*; *The Celebration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Al-*

*bany Academy, October 25th, 1888* (Albany, 1889), p. 79.

2. Not found.

3. In 1849, Stansbury had gone up the Platte River valley and across the mountains to Salt



January 6, 1851

Lake City. He and his team surveyed Salt Lake and Utah Lake. After wintering in Salt Lake City, he resumed his survey of the lake. He also looked for a railroad route east of the lake. His survey was the first scientific reconnaissance of the area, and he was the first to recognize the Great Basin as a prehistoric lake bed. William H. Goetzmann, *Exploration and Empire: The Explorer and the Scientist in the Winning of the American West* (New York, 1966), pp. 277-279.

4. The extract is in the same location as this letter.

5. Stansbury had left the barometer at Fort Laramie.

6. Stansbury published meteorological observations from May 23, 1849, to August 15, 1850, as Appendix G to Stansbury, *Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, including a Reconnaissance of a New Route through the Rocky Mountains*, U.S. Senate, 32d Congress, Special Session, Senate Executive Documents, No. 3 (1852), pp. 424-478.

7. In his letter of July 14, Stansbury proposed leaving his second barometer at Fort Hall, on the Snake River, "or at a new post to be established this summer somewhere in the valley of the Bear River."

❧ 1851 ❧

81. FROM ISAAC W. JACKSON<sup>1</sup>

Schenectady Jan'y 6<sup>th</sup> 1851

My Dear Henry—

Paterson's book you are aware is at length out<sup>2</sup>— I went to Albany last week to see if I could not induce some of the Albany people to do what a number of us had done here,—viz we give him five dollars for a copy, and was so pleased with the favorable reception of the proposition that I determined to attempt something more— It first occurred to me that we might procure for him a clerkship in one of the state offices,—subsequently it was suggested that as some one should & probably would at the present session be appointed to the<sup>A</sup> charge of the weights & measures rec'd from Washington,—we should attempt to get him in that position. I was compelled to return before consulting with the Secretary of State<sup>3</sup> who would know most about the matter in question,—but it was unanimously agreed by Paterson's friends, that now was the time to make a final effort to better his condition— He is very poor, can earn but little, frequently not more than five dollars a week & is growing old much more rapidly than men who think less— Whether his thinking will be of much utility or not ought not I conceive to be made a question. He is a man of merit,—of great merit considering his opportunities and if he lived under the despotic governments of Austria or Russia a place would be created for him, if none existed. Now as "the king's name is a tower of strength"<sup>4</sup>—we want a few lines from yourself & Mr Bache commendatory of Paterson and (if you will permit me to suggest) expressive of your gratification that the joint claims of his