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thermometer. Gibbs to Henry, June 10, 1850, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

3. The AAAS *Proceedings* for the August 1851 meeting in Albany does not mention a paper by Gibbs. Although Gibbs published very little until a few years later and little is known of his research during this period, Henry wrote the

trustees of Columbia in 1853 that he had "talents for original research which will enable him, with proper opportunity and the necessary means, to make important additions to the sum of human knowledge . . ." New York Senate, 78th Session, Documents, No. 67 (1855), p. 121.

97. TO ASA GRAY

Smithsonian Institution
Washington April 3^d 1851

My Dear Doctor

Your interesting communication¹ of March 14th was received about 3 days ago. We are much rejoiced to learn that you are recovering from the effects of an accident which nearly deprived you of life, and an account of which gave much pain to your friends on this side of the Atlantic. They are also pleased to learn that Mrs Gray is much renovated in health, and we hope that you will both return, physically as well as mentally, improved by the voyage.

We had a letter² a few days ago from Dr. Harvey in which he reports good progress in the preparation of the first part of his memoir.³ The cost of this will be very great in proportion to the means of the Institution, but as you know, we propose to spread it over at least three years and we have also concluded, at first, to color but 550 copies to supply the market and our foreign list of distribution. It is not thought advisable to present colored copies to the colleges and other public Institutions of this country.

Your remark in regard to the National Institute is very true. No doubt the reputation of this country has suffered much on account of the operations of this society, and indeed though it has apparently been dead for some time past,⁴ its malign influence still exists. During the last twelve months I have been much troubled in connection with it, by endeavoring to direct in a proper channel, the business of the Central Commission of the Great London Exhibition which Mr Clayton unfortunately placed in its hands. I opposed the proposition of having any thing to do with the matter believing that it would involve an expense of time, money and perhaps of character. I was however overruled and made one of a committee of five to attend to the affair. The result was, that after much trouble the Executive Department of the Government, was induced to grant the use of a ship to convey the goods to England

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but declared its inability to appropriate a single dollar towards employing an agent to attend to the business abroad. The result was that Peter Force Joseph C G Kennedy and myself were obliged to be responsible for the outfit of Mr Stansbury who accompanied the articles to England.

I had some thought of making the trip across the Atlantic^A during the coming summer, but circumstances of a pecuniary nature will prevent the execution of this design.

We shall be much indebted to you for your kind interest in Smithsonian exchanges. The second volume is now in the hands of the binder and I hope will be ready to be forwarded to your care in the course of a few weeks. We have during the last year received from different societies in England, copies of papers and transactions to be distributed among institutions and individuals, and from this the idea has been suggested that we might render good service to the cause of science by acting as the agent ^{↑scientific↓} of exchange between the United States and the different parts of the old world. In furtherance of this object we have petitioned the British Government to admit our packages free of duty. With our Second Volume we shall send to most of our foreign correspondents, copies of a splendid book relative to the Indian Tribes of N. America prepared and published at the expense of the Government.⁵ Profr. Baird is much interested in the scheme of exchanges and will superintend its execution.

The books from the Bavarian Academy have not yet arrived though I presume they will be received in due time.

The distribution of the Volumes in Paris has been entrusted to M Bossange⁶ who I think will prove an efficient agent.

All the affairs of the Institution are in a prosperous condition though the funds will probably, for some years to come, be burthened with the erection of a building. It is certainly too bad that in this civilized age, literature and science should be obliged to make such a sacrifice for the reproduction of the mementos of barbarism.

I remain very respectfully and truly

Your friend and servant

Joseph Henry

P. S. I am glad that I still live in the memory of Henslow. He was very attentive to me while I was in England and I recollect him with much pleasure. You perhaps remember that I was not so fortunate in my intercourse with Profr Lindley⁷ and that he afterwards complained to Dr. Torrey of my conduct in regard to him. The circumstances as I recollect them were as follows. Dr Torrey promised me a letter to Dr Lindley and

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gave me a package to deliver to him. He however forgot the letter and when I arrived in London I delivered the package without leaving my address, thinking^B this unnecessary as I had no introduction to present. Dr Torrey afterwards forwarded a letter of introduction but before this arrived my time had become so completely absorbed in the numerous engagements I had made, that had not the letter contained some matters of business I would not have delivered it. I sent it however to Dr Lindley but unfortunately neglected to state my address. After much trouble he found my lodgings and called upon me at a most unfortunate hour. I was at Dr Bache's lodgings, my trunks packed and ready to depart for Paris. I was engaged with Dr Bache in preparing an article for the press— I had no place into which I could invite Dr L. when he called— He mistook my embarrassment for a desire not to make his acquaintance and under this feeling I presume wrote a complaining letter to Dr Torrey. I regret the occurrence and certainly under other circumstances would have been highly delighted to have formed a more intimate acquaintance with Dr L. and to ↑have↓ received^C the^D his attentions with becoming thankfulness.

J.H.

Historic Letters, Archives, Gray Herbarium Library, Harvard University.

In Edward Foreman's hand, with Henry's signature and interlineation in fifth paragraph. Reply: May 6, 1851, Henry Papers, Smithsonian Archives.

1. Doc. 88.

2. Not found.

3. Harvey's memoir of marine flora, *Nereis Boreali-Americana: Or, Contributions to a History of the Marine Algae of North America*, was published in three parts between 1852 and 1858 in Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge.

4. Although rejected by the national scientific community, the National Institute survived because of periodic resuscitations by the local membership. In 1848–1849, Henry briefly participated in one such resuscitation, in hopes that the National Institute might take over the national collections. Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, "A Step Toward Scientific Self-Identity in the United States: The Failure of the National Insti-

tute, 1844," *Isis*, 1971, 62:361; *Henry Papers*, 7:400, 401n–402n, 437–438.

5. The Smithsonian distributed copies of the first volume of Henry R. Schoolcraft, *Historical and Statistical Information Respecting the History, Condition, and Prospects of the Indian Tribes of the United States*, 6 vols. (Philadelphia, 1851–1857). *Smithsonian Report for 1851*, p. 42.

6. Hector Bossange (1795–1884), a Paris bibliographer and international bookdealer. G. Vapereau, *Dictionnaire universel des contemporains* (Paris, 1893), p. 198; M. Prevost and Roman d'Amat, *Dictionnaire de biographie française* (Paris, 1954), 6:1143.

7. John Lindley was professor of botany at the University of London. *Henry Papers*, 3:165.