

Dr. Hyman - Jan. 30-57

Cambridge Jan 30th 1857

The 150 dollars was paid by Mr Cunningham
Dec 4th 1850, for which I have given him
a receipt —

My Dear Dr.

Mr George's kind note of Jan^y
3^d was duly received, & the intelligence that
you were recovering so rapidly from the effects
of the injury received from your fall, was the
source of no little satisfaction to your friends
here — How you escaped without more
serious injury, ~~is~~ certainly not to be accounted
for on the strength of any precautionary measures
taken by the crew of the steamer, nor from a
want of sufficient depth of fall — Your escape from
a fatal injury seems but little short of the miraculous.

In relation to Smithsonian matters.

Agassiz's & Gibbs articles are completed & sent to
Washington — An unfinished botanical article

f Hyman

still remains — The article has been received
from Boston on English cirroids, but is still
in abeyance — From Phlox Wrightman could,
I have no doubt, go to proof it once at all
events I have received nothing to the contrary
from Washington.

As to matters in Cambridge every thing
goes on as usual, the only subject of general interest is
the probable refection of Bowen by the board of overseers.
I say probable, though nothing very definite is known
with regard to the matter yet in so far as his position
has been canvassed, the odds are apparently a little against
him. His position is the result of a strange junction of
circumstances partly political & partly growing out of
his view of the Hengamine question, which last strange
as it may seem, will have, or certainly does have, no
small effect. — Cooke's appointment to the
Evening Professorship of Chemistry, after having doubtless
heard of, perhaps from his own mouth as he is now
in London — Some defections had been expected
in relation to the choice, especially attributable perhaps
to the existence of several chemists who are more known,

older, & who have given more decided indications
of proficiency than E. He is however, industrious
zealous, & I believe a conscientious laborer in the
department, but it still remains to be seen, how
far he will develop himself — I have great confidence
in his disposition & ability, but still cannot but feel
that corporations have incurred some risk in the matter.

The scientific school flourishes in the Department
of Chemistry & Engineering. Augustus had five special
students — Hofstad & Everts about 25 each.

I have had Holden chapel refitted in a very acceptable manner
& have now one good lecture room, dissecting room & museum
the last two occupying the lower floor, & the lecture room
the whole of the upper. I gave a special course on comp.
anat. last term to 17 students, & have engaged six special
students for next term. I have added largely to the museum.
I think by another year that I can afford good facilities for
my department. The college however have not yet
appropriated a single cent for me, except for the repairs
of the Chapel, which they now use (as lecture room)
for other purposes — They attempted to remove upon
me, a few days since, & the expedition was only avoided
by vigorous opposition. In order to accommodate Mr
Cooke during his absence, it became desirable to substitute
for his exercises ~~some~~ other those of some other department
& after looking round, the President at Mr C's suggestion
concluded to

unprop me into the service - I actually arranged to have
me give two years Zoology instruction during the next
term, & even went so far as to talk about employing
some one else if I did not submit. The injustice of the
course was it last made apparent to them, & abandoned - But
behold the importations that are practiced upon unlucky
professors - Among Lemmings Poines light &
spiritual rappings attract the most attention - Poine
avoids all examination by scientific men, & is generally
regarded as an impostor - though many are still strong in
the faith of his success - Spiritual rappings are "let them go"
one may communicate with the departed with the greatest ease.
Dr Franklin has been found, but when scientific questions
are put to him he is generally ~~being~~ occupied in a distant
part of the Universe, but is expected back quite soon. He
says he has been investigating electricity & suggested to
Morse & others the telegraph & other applications of science -

If you can spare time to drop me a line I should
like to get the address of Melville the one who wrote up the
Dodo, I should be glad to learn something of his
scientific reputation, he is somewhat antagonistic to
Owen, but as I believe highly esteemed - Falconers
address I should likewise be glad to obtain. He is
a paper Osteologist -

I have written you a rambling sort of a
letter, but it must in part be attributed to the death of
Cambridge news. Miss Norton is married, receives
company next Monday evening - lastly, I am moved
myself & occupy the house opposite Longfellow's &
hotel occupied by Bowen - As ever truly yours, S. Weyman



Wyman, Jeffries. 1853. "Wyman, Jeffries Jan. 30, 1853." *Asa Gray correspondence*

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