

Smithsonian Institution

SPENCER F. BAIRD,
SECRETARY.

Washington D.C. Oct. 31 1886

Dear Dr. Gray

To convince you of the sincerity of my doubts as to ability to visit Cambridge on occasion of the celebration, I would say that since our arrival last Monday afternoon, I have been kept entirely in the house ~~over~~ ~~since~~. Not even going to the Smithsonian. My throat has been very troublesome and is being treated with application of Nitrate of Silver. The Catarrh is running its course also.

If however the Doctor will let up on me at the proper time, I really will do all I can to be with you, ~~but~~ ~~the~~ result of your last letter (of the 29th?) I telegraphed yesterday to know the exact day and hour of the degree-conferring, so



as to gain every chance. I would much like
to be present the three days; but may have
to be content with one. If you have not telegraphed
please do so (to collect) at once. Write also and
instruct me as to clothes. I understand a
dress sent to be de rigueur; does this include
white vest, and cravat. What of a fleg hat,
I have not had such an article for forty years.

Unfortunately I have a cold, which
very soon sets me coughing, and cuts me short.
I think you assured me I would not have to say
anything on receiving the degree: merely to how in
acknowledgment

Very truly Yrs
WV Baird

Dr. Allen Fox

Cambridge

Mass



Baird, Spencer Fullerton. 1886. "Baird, Spencer F. Oct. 31, 1886." *Spencer Fullerton Baird letters to Asa Gray*

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