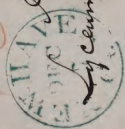


PAID
Mr. Gray M. D.
Secretary of Natural History
New York City.



New Haven Dec 30.
Wednesday -

Friend Gray.

I perceive by a letter to Prof.
S. from Dr. Torrey that there is indeed some doubt of my
appointment. I hardly know what means to employ to remove
the situation, as I have no friends at Washington, and none
who would probably have much influence there. Silliman
has just written again, in connection with an extract from a
letter I have received within a day, from Lieut. Ely, in which
he makes some remarks concerning my qualifications, & which
Silliman supposed might have some influence, coming as it
does from a person with whom I have no acquaintance. The
object of the letter was, to obtain my services as Captain's Clerk
to which I should wholly object, even if I should be disappointed
in the other situation - To see Dr. and many engaged in Scientific

investigations, and myself a mere looker on would be more than I could be able to endure —

As I am highly indebted to Dr Loring for his exertions in my behalf, and shall be exceedingly obliged to you for the endeavors you may make to secure my appointment. But the system of political favoritism has run to so high a pitch in our country that, I presume I shall have to content myself with the disappointment. How astonishingly singular it is that they make no appointments for an expedition that is to sail so soon.

Have you seen Featherstonhaugh's last geological report? I beg you to read it if you wish to be amused with a tissue of absurdities and false statements, an exposition of ignorance & Geological foppery; It will make you ashamed of your Country, or at least regret, that it should be so galled by a pretence of Science. It is a palliation however that he is not an American, and that ~~it is~~ consequently in England; they must view it as the product of one of their own Countrymen a member of the Royal Institution!! ~~Some~~ Some Geologist who carries well the pen of the satirist I think should vindicate our Country's honor, and toss the United States Geologist from the high station he holds, to the low ~~for~~ station he should occupy and make him glad to hide his face from the eyes of our

Countrymen if not from those of his own.

I shall wait patiently but anxiously for information from you as to all probabilities, and certainties if you have any to communicate. Please write soon & gratify

Your friend

as haste
James E. Dana



Dana, James Dwight. 1836. "Dana, James Dwight Dec. 1836." *James Dwight Dana letters* –.

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