

Letters from Benjamin Silliman to Edward Hitchcock from 1817 to 1829 in Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College, in the Edward and Orra White Hitchcock papers. I am grateful to the staff for many kindnesses in making them available to me.

Transcribed by Robert L. Herbert, completed March 2010.

Silliman's handwriting is extremely unclear. He frequently joins one word with the next in a trailing cursive. I have often inserted periods to replace his dashes, and have made minor adjustments of style and paragraphing (seldom clear in any case) for clarity's sake. I nonetheless try to retain his punctuation (ideosyncratic) and abbreviations.

"Torn loss" refers to the roughly oval portions torn out when the seal was opened (folded sheets were customarily used instead of separate envelopes).

I have not annotated these letters here, but I am simultaneously preparing for publication the letters exchanged between Silliman and Hitchcock, 1817 to 1829, and these are being extensively annotated.

= illegible syllable or word
= more than one illegible word
[?] = probably correct, but uncertain

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1817, Aug 24. "New Haven, Aug 24 1817.
Dear Sir,

You will find I believe most of your questions answered in the memoranda in the box. The Garnets appear to be the Melanite - they are very fusible & then become attractable by the magnet - viz after being pulverized. The copper ores of the our Greenstone Hills are generally poor -- still some fine pieces of native copper have been found in this vicinity.

I am happy to see you are busying yourself with mineralogy and geological observations. I wish you would inform me how far above you the greenstone extends - what rock lies under it & what rocks precede [sic] where it terminates. Should find any more of the Chabasie I should like a specimen. Send you a piece of our verd antique marble.

Yours respectfully tho in haste,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1817, Oct 6, 1817. "New Haven Octobre 6th 1817.
Sir,

I have looked over the specimens which you lately sent me by Mr. Nims [?] & now return those which I suppose might be interesting to you to have again.

I am gratified with the chabasie - the specimens are very pretty & as the mineral has not been found in this country before (except perhaps at Baltimore) I am interested to obtain more specimens for distribution should you hereafter succeed in obtaining abundance of it.

Your geological map I should be pleased to see & if not asking too much of you a copy of it would be very acceptable.

I am disposed to think that the slaty greenstone which you sent is accidental in its form & not a proper slate; it looks as if it was merely the result of those fractures to which greenstone is liable & which are sometimes vertical, sometimes horizontal. Probably these fragments do not uninterruptedly extend very far horizontally but are rather collections of detached pieces than possessing the genuine schistose structure; if I am wrong on this point you will inform me.

The specimen of polished Milford Marble which I send you is only partly polished; it admits of such a lustre as to make it almost a perfect mirror.

With every disposition to promote your mineralogical & geological studies, I remain respectfully your ob. servant,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1817, Oct 27. "New Haven October 27 1817.

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for the box of minerals. The titanium I will return as you request but should you prosecute the research & find more, some duplicate specimens would be very acceptable to me.

I am exceedingly gratified by your geological maps & dissertation. They are very credible both to your industry & discrimination & are particularly interesting to me as describing the northern termination of the greenstone range of the southern part of which I had before given a sketch.

Since you mention the idea of communicating them to some learned society will you not permit me to deposit them with the Connecticut Academy of Arts & Sciences & I will give my influence to have them appear in the first of their publications. Indeed, as their annual meeting is tomorrow evening I believe I shall presume so far on your indulgence as to lay them before the Academy simply as interesting information but without committing you as to their ultimate destination.

I would however mention to you in confidence that a project is in contemplation for the publication of a scientific journal to consist entirely of original American pieces (foreign scientific intelligence only excepted). Should this thing be matured I expect to have something to do with it & should be very happy to have your work appear in the first No. I shall take the liberty to retain your communication till I hear from you again. Before it is published I would take the liberty to suggest a few slight emendations not affecting the body of the performance. I am gratified if any attention of mine have been acceptable to you & I am on my part pleased to have contributed any thing to encourage & mature an active & intelligent mineralogist in an interesting district #.

In haste yours &c,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1818, March 1. "New Haven Mar 1 1818.

Dear Sir,

It has not been inattention but extreme occupation which as prevented my replying before to your favour of Nov 5th & to your & Mr. William's joint one of December 1st. I am pleased that you find enough of the Chabasie & shall be obliged to you for more of it when you forward any thing this way. You will also please accept my thanks for your last box - that for NY. was duly forwarded. I thank you for your permission to use your communication & shall be glad to avail myself of it for an early No. of the Journal of which I now send you some prospectus'. [sic] I am certain your will do any thing in your power to promote its objects & I request you to permit me to consider you & Mr. Williams as contributors to its pages. Be so good as to append some blank paper to the prospectus' & cause them to be placed in situations where they will be seen. As I am now much occupied about the Journal I must request your to excuse my brevity & with my regards to Mr. Williams [and] to believe me your very obt. & obliged servant,

B. Silliman."

[P.S.] Pray give me your & Mr. Williams' titles correctly - are you joint Preceptors of the academy?"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1818, Mar 31. "New Haven March 31, 1818.
Messrs Hitchcock & Williams. Gentlemen,

I am much obliged to your for the box of specimens by Mr. Griswold which, with that formerly sent, were very acceptable. I assure you I very much value your chabasies & agates & amethyst, titanium &c &c, & as I expect to send a good many of them away, more would be very acceptable should you abound & hence no other more interesting destination for them. It is however unreasonable for me to ask for any thing more than what you can with perfect convenience spare & if there is any thing acceptable which I can send you in return I will cheerfully do it.

Mr. Griswold mentioned that you wished my opinion as to some specimens on the floor of your last box. My impression is that they belong to the grauwacke tribe but I would not vouch for it without more examination.

To Mr. Hitchcock.

I have this evening been looking attentively at your geological account of the maps & I am of opinion they will do you honour & serve the science. I shall publish them in No. 1 which I hope to have out in May. Should I find it necessary to omit the picturesque part, viz the pictures, will you object? They would be pleasant objects but would add to the expenses without too much advancing the science of the thing.

Is not your section of the country reversed? I think it evidently is so, viz the country on the West of the river is pictured on the East & vice versa -- viz -- taking the side of the map from one for North. Did you reverse the arrangement to suit it to the Engraver? If so he must put it upon his plate just as you have it on the paper without reversing it as is usual in engraving.

Immediately after the word chalcedony concluding a sentence you say 'The mass has been noted weighing perhaps an hundred tons.' I believe this cannot mean chalcedony but probably a mass of greenstone which is mentioned just before as occurring among the pudding stone.

I will thank you for an answer as soon as may be as it is time the plates were in hand.

If there is any thing you would add to your essay it will be in season within 2 or 3 weeks.

I remain dear Sir very truly yours with much esteem, BS.

[PS] Messrs Hitchcock & Williams: An account of the Northampton mine in its present state & with the progress made since 1810 when I described it in Bruce's Journal would be very acceptable. Dr Hunt will furnish facts but will not write."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1818 May 22. "New York May 22nd 1818.

My dear Sir,

I am here on Journal business and am sorry to say that I find the engraver has not yet commenced your map and now it cannot be done under a month. This with the printing and colouring would delay No. 1 till July and under these circumstances I am constrained to postpone your paper on Deerfield &c till No. 2. I assure you I do it with very great reluctance but I do not see any help for it. I am at the mercy of engravers. I hope you will pardon it. I think No. 1 may be out within 2 or 3 weeks. I remain my dear Sir yours with much esteem,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1818, June 22. "New Haven June 22nd 1818.

My dear Sir,

I have duly received yours of the 3rd instant. The date and additions shall be duly annexed to the paper which is still in my hands. I trust we shall not be disappointed as to its appearance in the next No. I should be very sorry to have it kept back longer. I am much obliged by your notice of a second description & for your care to preserve the appearances unbroken. It is now probable that Mr. Olmsted & myself may postpone our excursion till after commencement that we may have the weather a little cooler. I am glad to hear that you continue to discover the chabasie &c & shall be much obligd by the box which you are good enough to promise me, especially as it will come seasonably to enable me to add your interesting minerals to a small collection which I am wishing soon to forward to some of the French Chemists &c. I have received an application through a friend from M. Gay Lussac at Paris for the Scientific Journal & the promise of the annales [sic] of Chemistry etc. in exchange. This is just what I was wishing.

I am sorry to say that the Journal is detained by the faithlessness of the engraver. I trust however it will be out next week or the week after.

I beg you to minute all your observations with reference to it.

I am gratified if you did not think your time misspent in New Haven & cordially invite you to come again whenever it suits your convenience & wishes.

When you write again be so good as to inform me where Mr. Eaton is & is to be for some weeks. If you forward your box of minerals to Hartford care of Dr. Wadsworth Esq it will find me.

In much haste I remain my dear Sir yours with much esteem & kindness,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1818, Sept 25. "New Haven Septr. 25, 1818.
My dear Sir,

Your favour of July 6 was received in due time & I am just now put in possession of your note with the titanium in the box of minerals which I have just opened. It cam to hand a few days since. I tender you my best thanks for it. The specimens are very good & if we have any thing which I can send you in return which would be interesting, I beg you to let me know it.

I am glad you are interesting yourself in Botany. I regret that I do not understand this science & nothing but incessant occupation prevents me from attempting it. The Journal is open for your botanical as well as mineralogical observations & I should be happy to receive them.

I send you by this mail a copy of the geological map thinking that you might prefer to have one coloured under your own eye. If it is not too much trouble I should be glad your would & then we should be sure of being accurate. Please return it as soon as practicable & the others shall be done after it. If you wish to add any thing to your essay it can be done if sent within three weeks. I am going on in a few days to arrange the papers for No. 2.

I begin to be afraid I shall not see Deerfield this season - at any rate have no references to me in your arrangements.

With much regard my dear Sir, truly yours, B Silliman.
P.S. I hope the degree will be acceptable to you - the diploma is making out."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1818, Dec. 11. "New Haven December 11 1818.
My dear Sir,

On receiving yours of Sept. 28th I wrote to have the correction made in the section & 250 plates which were struck off afterwards are correct. I wrote also to Mr. Eastburn to procure some person to add the omitted lines with the pen, on the 1000 plates which had been struck off before. I trust it has been done. The lines were supposed to be mere shading which was the reason for the omission. The clause which you requested to have inserted respecting the perspective was added agreeably to your wishes. The maps have all been neatly & I trust correctly coloured & I hope will please you & the public as they do me.

Some further notice of the Southampton lead mine would still be acceptable should it ever be convenient to you to make it, for, Mr. Eaton's account embraces only the subsurfaces found in the level which they have carried into the hill and does not embrace any account of the present state of the concern in other respects. I would not however tax you with any effort which may be inconvenient to your health. Any observations of yours will however be acceptable & your botanical labours not less so than your mineralogical.

An apology is due to you for a mistake in sending you the common diploma when another was in preparation & has now been some weeks ready. It is committed to the care of Griswold & I trust will reach you safely. I am much gratified that this college has done any thing acceptable to

your feelings & the more so as I do not regard the diploma as merely honorary, but on the contrary well merited.

On my return from New York I was very sorry to find I had missed of you [sic] in your late visit at this town. I did not know that you contemplated such a visit & hope should you do it again (which I trust you will) I shall not lose the pleasure of your visit a second time.

I have delivered to Griswold those minerals which I supposed you wish returned, with an opinion on the labels where one appeared to be desired. I must apologize for not having done it sooner but my avocations have been numerous.

I am much gratified with the account which you give of the impression made in your quarter by the first No. of the Journal. The second is ready to appear & I am expecting it every day to see it announced. As a friend to the work and its Editor you will be gratified to learn that the whole edition of No. 1 (1000 copies) is exhausted & the subscriptions increasing. We print 1500 copies of No. 2 & I shall soon reprint No. 1

I hope you & your friend & assistant who handles so delicate a pencil will favour us with something in Botany; we will have coloured engravings executed when desired.

I remain my dear sir with earnest wishes for further recovery of your health, truly yours,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1819, Feb. 6. "New Haven Feby. 6 1819

My dear sir,

Yours of the 19th January is before me with your communication & that of Dr. Williams. I beg leave through you to make my acknowledgments to him for his valuable communication as I do also to you for yours.

Both will appear in a future No. of the Journal. No. 3 is now in the Printer's hands & No. 4 is so far arranged that it may not be in my power to insert them in that, but you may rely upon it that they shall appear as soon as practicable.

I am glad you are pleased with the execution of the map & I am sorry there was any omission of minerals. Your account of the disruption [action of frost] in Deerfield will appear in No. 3 with a handsome plate.

I did not know you had changed your pursuits. I am pleased to hear that you will prosecute them here.

The lectures of every description will be perfectly acceptable to you.

With my best respects to Dr. Williams & my kind regards to yourself, I remain, dear sir, your # servt.

B Silliman

Mr. Hitchcock

If any persons in your neighborhood failed to receive No. 1, I could wish to know it. A second edition of that number is in the press."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1820, Aug. 18. "New Haven August 18 1820.

My dear sir,

You gave me license to take time to answer your favours of April & of June & you see I avail myself of your indulgence. Have you or Dr. Webster forwarded to Prof Cleaveland the notice of the Cumington Chromat [sic] of iron and the correction as to the silver at Westfield River; if not I hope it will be done that, at least, it may get into his appendix. Is there much of your manganese?

Your question as to the existence of the Verd antique antique marble in connexion with the Chromat certainly deserves attention & I hope you & others, who are favourably situated, will attend to the subject.

In your speculations as to the great granite range, I suppose you do not mean to suggest a doubt as to its appearance east of New Haven because it undoubtedly does appear east as well as west; it is found at our light house & prevails very much along the coast to Branford & even perhaps to New London and to Stonington.

I think you got off well between Moses and the divines: the latter I suspect, were willing enough to get rid of the subject. I have become still more convinced of the truth of the new views and I am satisfied they will ultimately become general among men who are at once acquainted with geology and disposed to reverence the scriptures. No mere divine, no mere critic in language can possibly be an adequate judge of the subject or deserve unqualified deference, however able in other respects.

I am so glad that the fifth no. of the Journal meets your approbiation. As far as I can learn, it has been generally well received although the number distributed does not equal 400 copies instead 1200 which we sent around [sic] of the first volume; but the difference is that 800 out of the 1200 have paid no attention to the terms while those which we have now sent out are rather paid for in advance or contracted for in quantities by the bookseller.

I cannot say whether any have been sent far from Deerfield. The terms you will observe are in a word: payment for a volume in advance in the case of individual subscriptions; in the case of booksellers' contracts for quantities the usual discount & credit.

Your box of minerals for Dr. Torrey I will forward on their being sent to my care. Dr. Torrey's new mineral I have not yet received from him but suppose I have it from another quarter.

I have received through Professor Dewey Col. Graves' account of the gelatinous meteor - what a pity it was not analyzed! I have received a very good collection from M. Brongniart & they are the more valuable because I have now adequate means of understanding what he means by particular terms. Your memorandum as to the cylinders of snow I will insert in No. 6 which I am about beginning to compile.

I am at this time much engaged in constructing my new laboratory and have but just got out of my hands a little new work - a tour to Quebec & back which will in a few days be before the public. I would send it to you if I knew how & where. By the by I have used General Hoyt's name without his permission. I will thank you to apologize to him for me. I could not conveniently consult him in season & I supposed it would do him no discredit (vide the notice of the lake George battles.)

We have nothing new here, except what you will be glad to hear that there is a very considerable attention to religion in this place and in the college. I hear of nothing which should give solicitude as to its been productive of good.

The gentlemen of College are well. Mr. Fitch by the death of his wife's mother becomes a rich man.

I shall always be happy to hear from you. My best respects to Dr. Williams & to General Hoyt.

Yours very sincerely,
B Silliman.

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1821, Feb. 14. [addressed to Conway] "New Haven February 14 1821.

My dear sir,

You have been so indulgent a creditor that you perceive you have got me into a habit of expecting 90 days at least & then you are paid not with interest but at so many shillings in the pound. Your favours of Nov. 8 & Octob. 10th have come up in their turn to be answered and I take a pleasure in acknowledging renewed proofs of your kindness. I am glad that the little 'tour' has afforded you any pleasure and I shall certainly preserve & make use of your remarks as to the sand stone in Greenfield whenever a second edition is printed which my publisher tells me is needed.

Do you observe that in your letter you use Wacke & Greywacke as synonymous? I doubt not you are aware of the difference & that, although similar in name they have no resemblance. As to Cleaveland's definition of Greywacke - I agree with you that it is not Werner's. Dr. Webster has written to me on this topic & I have expressed to him my conviction that we need a geological definition for the earlier fragmented rocks more extensive than any extant. I would have it embrace Werner's Greywacke & also those equally early perhaps in some instances even earlier fragmented rocks which are most evidently & passably the mere ruins of primitive rocks broken down & cemented mechanically - such as those in your vicinity & I was highly gratified by marking the transition from the orthodox primitive, into the heterogeneous if not heterodox breccias & conglomerates of Northfield - Miller's Falls - the falls near Gill &c.

I thank you very much for remembering the fish. I have received another interesting letter from Brongniart just returned from a geological tour into Italy & he is very desirous of more of our remains & is much interested about them. I shall send him the fish you gave me & will mention you as the discoverer & I will thank you to let the men persevere in exploring & I will pay them. I should like while they are fishing to have them catch enough for a dinner. You will see in No. 8 of the Journal (to be published I trust in May) a notice of Mr. Maclure's splendid present to the Geological society. No. 7 is just published & I presume you will see it nearly as soon as this letter.

The box of minerals which Dr. Webster mentioned is still in our cabinet garnet & shall be reserved for you. Unfortunately I have mislaid the specimens of minerals which you sent and in the multitude of cares have forgotten where or what they are - perhaps I shall yet come across them. There is an able & favourable analysis of the first vo. of the Am. Journ. of Sci. just arrived from Germany. Brongniart writes me very favourably about it & Berzelius writes to me for it from Sweden; but it hardly bears its weight as to expence [sic]. It is however slowly improving [torn loss].

The religious revival continues in [this] town & vicinity and in a degree in the College. In the town & College there have been considerably

over 200 admitted to the communion this winter & I trust that good will come of it.

We are about building a new college as our numbers demand such an accommodation. I am told you are about being fixed at Conway. I hope you will let me hear from you when convenient & believe me, my dear sir, to be always with great respect & regards, very truly yours,

B. Silliman

P.S. Your thermometrical register which I have had two years went to the printers to go into the no. 7 but we could not get it in.

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1821, Apr 21. [addressed to Deerfield] "New Haven April 21st 1821.

My dear sir,

A pretty serious indisposition and many calls on what little health I have had left for six weeks passed must plead my excuse for omitting to answer your very kind favour respecting the fish. I am under very great obligations to you for your kindness and attention & I must beg to be informed as soon as may be what is the expence. I will remit the money to you promptly or pay it here if you have occasion to pay any here. I think the fish &c should by all means come by water as they would unless very carefully packed be much injured by a land journey. I will thank you to give a written memorandum to the boatman or to save you the trouble of writing it, I will annex one which you will be so kind as to tear off & hand or commit to the boatman. As I know from experience that some of those people are very unreasonable in their demands, I should be obliged (if you can do it without too much trouble) by having the fare paid at first & inscribed as paid on the box & let me know the amount with the other expence. I wish very much to get the box soon as I shall forthwith make up one for Mr. Brongniart. I will not fail to ask him the questions that you desire. I shall be glad of all the papers you mention. They will be in season for no 9. No. 8 is already more than half printed. Pray let me see your Mt Holyoke piece & I will be very candid with you about it, but dare say it will do very well.

Your notice of temperature has been again in the printer's hands for this No but for want of room I am afraid I must still postpone it.

I have inserted or shall insert a notice of the fish & your catalogue as it was calculated to be very instructive. I hope you will pardon me the liberty I am taking.

With great regard & esteem I remain your very obt. & obliged

B Silliman

[P.S.] My respects to Genl. Hoyt to whom I shall write by this mail or the next. My regards to Dr. Williams."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37

1821, July 27. [addressed to Conway] "New Haven July 27 1821.

My dear sir,

My absence till nearly the middle of June on a journey for my health & professional duties since my return engaging what little vigor I have left, must be my apology for not sooner acknowledging your favours of May 9th and 23rd.

The box of Ichthyolites I duly received and am very much obliged to you for your care & attention about them. I beg you will never think of

apologizing for mentioning any expences you may incur on my account unless you would prevent my repeating any applications to you in future.

I will see that vol. 4 of the Journal is forwarded to you as the numbers come out.

The remaining Ichthyolites I should be glad to receive when convenient & should there at any future time be discovered any specimens where the fish is entire I will make the people who find them any reasonable compensation for them.

I forwarded to you a few days ago two of the German journals by mail. I will occasionally transmit you other Journals, agreeably to your request if you will say what ones & in what manner. I receive about half a dozen Parisian Journals, three I am entitled to from London, two hence began to come & one more is expected besides German Journals.

Your hint respecting my health is kind & considerate. I have long been sensible that I have too much upon me, but I see no release till the final one.

I am happy to hear of your double settlement & trust your colleague has joined you ere this.

With much esteem I remain dear sir your very obt. & obligd. servt.,
B Silliman"

[In EH hand on outside fold, a list of nine stone types.]

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1821, Aug. 11. "NH. Aug. 11 1821.
My dear sir,

You had better instruct the young men you mention to call on me for the Journals & then it will not be forgotten. I thought you asked in one of your letters for German journals. You can return them.

I cannot say who will be at the meeting of the G. Socy. I hope you will come & I trust we can make out a quorum for the appointments.

I like your plan for the report of the secondary region - it is what I have long wished & contemplated but am satisfied I can never do it. I shall be very much satisfied to have it in your hands. I may aid you somewhat at this end but can promise nothing owing to the precarious state of my health. It was at first an acute pulmonary attack of the influenza class but is now little more than a general & nervous debility. I think however I am mending. You will excuse my brevity. You need say nothing about compensation for the reading of the Journals. You are more than welcome. They may be somewhat old before they come into your hands because I cannot always myself examine them under some weeks.

I have various things to suggest to you as to the survey but will defer them till commencement.

With much esteem, truly yours,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 37
1821, Sept. 20. "New Haven Sept. 20 1821.
Dear sir,

By some mistake your letter of 3d of Septr did not reach me till after commencement. Griswold I believe forgot to mention the subject of the Journals & I forgot it till he was gone. I must avail myself of some other opportunity. Should you find one I hope you will send [sic]. Griswold mentioned the box to me but he did not send it to the cabinet as

proposed & hence not yet seen it but shall doubtless find it soon. I return you many thanks for your attention to the subject & I will see the specimens disposed of agreeably to your wishes. We missed you at our annual meeting of the G. S. which was fuller than any former one. You can inform Dr. Allen that he was elected a member. He will soon hear it from the secretary. I should be very glad to see you here & hope you will come but I wish it might be within 15 or 18 days & as early in that time as practicable because it is very possible I may be absent during the 2 or 3 last weeks of the vacation. I will do every thing in my power to forward the object in view & I hope you will not relinquish it. The ferruginous acid [?] of titanium is commonly crystalized. Such was what you formerly send me from Leyden. You must intend I should imagine some other form of titanium. As to specimens when you come I will endeavor to look out some for you.

I will thank you to write whether I may expect you & when.
Yours very truly, BS"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, Jan. 7. "NH Jany. 7, 1822.

My dear sir,

I send you the books and ms. you mentioned except one vol. of the G.S. Transactions viz vol. 4 which I cannot find at this moment. It is somehow mislaid. I need not say that you will preserve the books with great care and return them when convenient.

I send you also one of your maps complete and a print of the Ichthyolites &c. the references to the pages &c are still to be added. I send also a finished proof of the first part of your memoir. All the errata which I observed I have noticed at the end. The manuscript catalogue you will let me have by the first of March. I have no time to enlarge it being a moment of great occupation but remain Dr Sir with great respect,

Your friend & Servt,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, May 8. "New Haven May 8th 1822.

My dear sir,

I duly received your favour of March 25th covering a statement of Mr. Williams' case. It is interesting & I had no hesitation in ordering it for the current No. which will be out this month. I have had the picture engraved; it adds much to the interest of the piece & I would by no means have had it omitted. I doubt however whether many other trousers have had the honour of sitting for their own picture. I think you have assigned the true reason for the preservation of Mr. Williams' life.

I shall be glad to receive your other communications for the Journal whenever they are ready. I wish you would obtain from Dr. Cooley the notice of the fluete, agates &c. I perceive that Dr. Cooper is the same man about whom you argue but I never saw his lucubrations on the consciousness &c of plants. I have not heard any thing from Mr. Brongniart respecting the Sunderland fish but will inform you when I do.

I hope you will not abandon the geological project. Such a map would be interesting & valuable. I may perhaps aid you in that part of the ranges which lies this way.

I am much gratified that you & Genl Hoyt think so favourably of the Journal. You have contributed to its respectability & I am always happy to hear from you.

I will endeavor to send you some foreign Journals after I have found time (that however may not be very soon) to look them through. I was mortified when your messenger called that I could not find your box of minerals. I have forgotten what it was. Cannot you mention something that will reveal it to my recollection? I hope within a few weeks to make a general overhaul among my minerals & then to find it if not before.

What has become of Gen Hoyt's book? I am desirous of seeing it. My respects to him when you see him.

I remain my dear sir very cordially yours,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38

1822, Aug. 2. [MAP ENCLOSED, DRAWN AND COLORED BY ORRA/EH, CORRECTED BY BS AND JAMES G. PERCIVAL] "New Haven Aug 2d 1822.

My dear sir,

I now return you the map with a few corrections by Dr. Percival & myself; and first for my own:

1. The primitive trap is carried too far W. I have put it down ## thus it commences very soon after leaving the alluvion of N Haven plain.
2. I think you have omitted Mt. Carmel, that remarkable knob. The most distinct Greenstone # visible from N Haven at the distance of 9 miles N. It is continued towards Wallingford in a range of Greenstone hills of several miles. When you passed through them going to Cheshire you left it on your right, the road passing directly at its foot. I have put it down Mr. Carmel Range* [at foot of page:] *There also Greenstone hills farther south of Mt. Carmel. I have put them down (GrSt) thus.
3. The coal formation is distinct, very distinct W of Middletown & so on down to Durham & as high up as opposite Berlin East.
4. The same in Southington immediately W of the great Greenstone range there & for several miles up & down; it is no where more distinct.
5. Also in Somers & Ellington (see Am. Journal vol. 3 pa 248). I have laid it down by guess for I know not the exact spot.

Dr. Percival

You will observe the Doctor's corrections partly put down on your map but more fully delineated in a separate sketch on the second page where you will observe the greenstone is more in detached portions than in continued ranges & this Dr. Percival thinks is to a considerable extent, the fact generally & even where it appears to one, in front of it, like a continuous wall, it is usually formed of several walls, one lapping on, by the other, & in such a manner, that the broken ends are not always visible. [here crude elongated ovals in ink] [##] however that I mean to delineate any particular spot.

In Dr. Percival's sketch of the Greenstone which runs E from Saltonstal's pond, the ridge is too continuous in the eastern part & it stops too short. It should continue farther E & S so as to come close to the Granite where we saw it at Branford. I think your idea of a coal formation is a good one. I extracted you from a dilemma.

I think it best to put all the names down on the MS Map & I trust we shall be able to put them all upon the engraved one but in any event, we can annex a list if we find it will cost too much to engrave fully,

putting down at least the initial & enough to render it intelligible as E.H. Bran. Southn &c.

I hope you will be ready by commencement & if I can aid you any farther prey write # dear sir.

Yours with very great regard,
B Silliman."

[Separate sheet. On recto: Corrections in watercolor and ink of East Haven area]. "I have been over this since I saw you. James G. Percival." [Balance of recto in EH hand:]

"Professor Silliman & Dr. Percival will oblige E. Hitchcock by correcting this map [overleaf] whenever they perceive it to be erroneous. And if they can add any thing to it on the east it will be very acceptable. It will not be necessary in making alterations to attempt putting on colours but only to draw the outlines with a pen. By the 'Coal Formation' I mean those secondary slate sandstones, shale, & what some have called graywacke which are distinct from the old red sandstone. The hornblende slate too is an anomalous rock & I put it down merely to show that such a rock exists somewhere in the vicinity. Dr. Percival expressed to me an opinion that Cheshire, Southington &c are alluvial. After examining those towns I have put them down chiefly secondary. He mentioned also a peculiar spot in Cheshire or Woodbridge where the succession of rocks was very manifest & instructive. I could not find those hills. If he feels disposed to give a short statement of that spot I will thank him. Please to return the map by mail as soon s convenient."

[Verso: Map in ink and watercolor, with color code given for each kind of rock. Notations in EH hand. A very handsome ms. sheet!]

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, Oct. 2. "New Haven Octob. 2d 1822
My dear sir,

I should wish you to be governed solely by your own convenience & by the exigencies of the undertaking, as to the time when the geological map & account shall appear. By all means make it as perfect as possible & I will cheerfully wait you convenience. I think there will be matter enough for the next No. in that department without your memoir, but I shall consider this as entitled to a place among the first, whenever it is ready.

As to the botanical notices. I would by all means preserve & publish them in some form or another. If you prefer it I should not object to their being inserted in their geographical or geological connexion. I would however suggest the idea of a separate paper in which they should be embodied & then they might be inserted under the Botany. This would also shorten the other account. Perhaps both methods might be combined by just mentioning the plants where they occur & then referring to the fuller account under the Botany. The testaceological notices should certainly be introduced in the places where they belong.

I wish you to send me the drawings of the Ichthyolites & of the fasciculate, the former certainly & I think the latter I should introduce.

Mr. Whitney is, at present confined to a bed of sickness (I greatly fear his last one). Should a proper opportunity occur I will ask him the questions as I visit him frequently. . . .

I think it probably that some copies of your geology of the Trap Region would

sell. At any rate it would cost very little to strike them off & the cost of the paper would be no great affair. You would probably wish also to send some abroad & to your friends in different quarters. . . .

As to Mr. Nuttall, suppose you were to communicate with him, and have an understanding that he shall not publish till your piece is out. Every thing that I have seen in him has been fair & manly. You will however recollect that Dr Baldwin preferred an accusation against him in the Journal Vol I pa 355 & 357 to which he has not replied nor has he ever mentioned the subject to me.

I have read your discourse with much pleasure & instruction & have given it to my daughter to read. I hope you will give us more such physico-theologico disquisitions.

I have just received from Mr. William Phillips of London & Prof. Conybeare of Oxford the first part of a joint work of theirs, a thick finely presented elaborate octavo with grand coloured sections of England. It is both an elementary & local geological treatise & should you wish to see the latest & the highest style of such performances I must send it to you as soon as I have perused it.

I have this morning a long letter from our # Maclure with a geological communication for the Journal & the annunciation of various things sent out for the society, among others, the last volume of the Geological Transactions of London. I know not whether you looked over these Transactions. They are very valuable & full of coloured prints, maps, views, sections, &c.

With great regard & esteem, very truly your friend,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, Oct. 27. "NH Octob. 27, 1822.
My dear sir,

I have recd yours of the 17th with the map & description. Both do you much honour & I presume the map owes its delicacy & beauty to a hand more delicate than yours or mine. In the tablet of colours a perchance [?] omitted to put down the brown for the coal formation. It is left white in the tablet although it is coloured in the map.

What you have sent of the memoir will make nearly 40 pages of the Journal; if I understand you correctly there will be nearly as much more of the geological part, say 35 printed pages = 75. The geol. & mineral. department of the Journal has varied from 35 to 85 or 90 pages per no. I have now on hand about 30 pages, most of which is promised for the next no; this with yours will make about 100 pages, that is, half the no. I hardly think it would answer to go beyond this as the lovers of the other branches might complain. I see then no way but to divide your whole production into two parts. Part I, I will endeavour to insert entire in this no. viz the whole of the Geology with all the drawings except the fasciculate. Part II, that is the mineralogy & miscellanies will come in the next no but both will be in one Vol. It can be mentioned that the whole was communicated at once & you can have your printed copies of both so arranged as to stick them together in one pamphlet.

The Botanical part has better remain where it is, but I foresee that there will be typographical errors in that part unless Mrs.

Hitchcock will take the trouble to copy those parts again in a hand that cannot be misread, for our botanical Doctors are too busy to be always found & always at command when needed to aid me in correcting proof. If the MS is perfectly plain (which is not always the case with you and me) I can then rely on myself.

I will endeavour to send you that work on fungi when I have an opportunity. You are aware it is in German but there is a Latin translation, column by column.

I will send you the earliest copy of the map that I can obtain & I will put it (the MS) into the engraver's hands this afternoon.

I wish you would forward the catalogue of plants as early as possible that I may see how much room it will occupy. I have one now lying by besides another botanical paper & Mr. Schweinitz has intimated that he shall send some papers. I will do any thing in my power for Dr. Cooley & remain with great regard truly your obligd. friend & sevt.,

B Silliman"

[P.S.] "My respects to Mrs. Hitchcock whom I cannot but regard as a coadjutor."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, Nov. 18. "NH. Nov. 18 1822.

My dear sir,

I will do all that is possible as to correcting your paper but a good deal of it is in type & it may be very difficult to insert the remarks in their proper place without making the printer a pretty serious amount of trouble. In any event I can append the corrections.

Mr. Converse is away so I cannot consult him. I will therefore have the 60 copies prepared for you. Do you not use stratified & its converse as synonymous with schistose structures; you know schistose rocks may or may not be stratified & stratified rocks are not always schistose. I allude to your remarks on the Bellows Falls mica plate & the Gill & Greenstone. If I do not hear from you I shall almost venture to modify your language a little.

Should you be afraid of anticipation if the catalogue were deferred till the next No.? It may possibly be desirable. The map is in progress. In much haste truly yours,

BS"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1822, Nov. 25. [Dictated, not in BS hand, through to the pencilled PS which is in BS hand.] "New Haven Nov. 25th 1822.

Dear Sir,

I have in the best manner in my power inserted in your manuscript the various corrections and alterations contained in your letter.

It is very possible that it may not entirely meet your views, for it was a task of some difficulty, in the first instance, to find the proper places and in the second to insert the corrections & c in their proper connection.

I now forward you a proof of your map. We have altered the form of the tablets of the colours to correspond with those commonly found in European maps. Mr. Doolittle suggests that the states should be divided by a stronger line, that the names of the states should be placed on

their respective territories, and that the great roads up and down the river should be marked by a distinct line.

You will observe that we have given the outline of the different formations on the map, to prevent mistakes in the colouring. You will of course alter this outline wherever you find it erroneous. Should the botanical catalogue be deferred to the next number, would you be afraid of being anticipated by Mr. Nuttall or any one else?

Mr. Doolittle wishes the map returned as speedily as possible, because the colouring will occupy a good deal of time.

I remain dr. sir your friend & servt.,
B. Silliman.

[Following is in pencil in BS hand:] P.S. I open my letter today that I have mislaid yours in which you mention the botanical books to which you would have me refer. Pray state their titles again & return me an answer promptly by mail."

[The following, in ink, appears to be in EH hand:]

"Put ## the letter of the map at bottom.
Insert a fleur de lis.

The printing underneath the profile of Greenstone dikes is indistinct.

Alluvion in the table of colours is spelled with only one l.

Insert the name & boundaries of Scenery south of #.

A little alteration in the coal formation in Durham.

The line between Northfield & Bernardson.

An alteration in the colouring in Gill Bernardson & Northfield.

From Northfield in the east side of Connecticut river to the north end of the map very many alterations.

Line wanting between Northfield & Montgomery.

Town of Hinsdale omitted.

West line of Conway should be extended to Deerfield."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38

1822, Dec. 5. "New Haven Decr 5 1822

My dear sir,

A day of indisposition confines me at home & leaves the leisure but not much of the ability to look at my letters.

Yours of the first Inst. is this morning received. I believe I have inserted all your corrections in the first part of your MS. The second part received by Mr. Fisher I have not had leisure to peruse although I have been obliged this day to send it to the press. I will endeavour in correcting the proof to alter those places which need it, so as to make them correspond with the other part. I have prefixed to the whole of your communication the title - part I - presuming of course that you will forward the remainder, that is the mineralogy and miscellanies in season for the next number, where I shall prefix part II.

Your use of the words schistose, stratified &c, will I believe, lead to no confusion. I particularly observed as I read the proof that it would make good sense, and would not commit the author whichever way it might be understood.

With respect to the botanical Catalogue, I do not know but it would be prudent to postpone the publication of it to the next number, lest objections should be made that too much space was allowed to communications from a particular quarter. Should it not appear at present

I should thank you to explain the cause of the omission when you write to Doct. Cooley.

I am sorry to hear that my long and ill sounding name is to have a snake's tail put on to it to eke it out for insertion in a tableau comparatif.

I heard nothing of this affair and hope at least that it will not turn out like some similar things in this country, to be merely a new name for an old thing,. The annunciation of a supposed new mineral should if possible be accompanied by its Analysis.

I think that without doubt the ministry should be your main object but a collateral & recreative pursuit of science is certainly proper within proper limits. I know some people think otherwise but I am not of the number. Both science & literature have both [sic] been much indebted to clergymen & I should be very sorry to lose your services in these departments. I would say more but my poor head will not permit.

I sent you the map some days ago & trust we shall soon hear from you on the subject.

With cordial esteem, truly your friend,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1823, Jan. 25. "New Haven Jany 25 1823
My dear sir,

I duly received your MSS by Mr. [Sylvester] Hovey & am obliged by the punctuality of their return. I hope we shall escape many errors in your parts 2, 3 & 4. Excepting the first two or three proofs, your pieces were red in proof three times by me, aided by Mrs. Silliman. The errors which affect the sense materially, were, if I mistake not, in the early proofs and are corrected in the errata, but, for any thing the printers could have done, there would have been hundreds of errors, for the MS was - you will pardon me for saying - in an uncommon degree, illegible, especially in the earlier parts, and I think both you & I should find I advantageous, to write a round full hand rather than to stretch one letter [here a mix of illeg. and legible words about difficulty of interpreting words run together]. I find myself constantly prone to this mode of writing, especially when I am much fatigued. I think it will be well to make out a full table of errata & let me have it, but I would print only those which are material, just alluding to the others. I am sorry you did not mention what were the omissions in colouring the maps, as they are still in hand, and could be corrected. I will however see, if by diligent search, we can find them. Your 60 copies of maps & sheets of the memoir I will have immediately packed, with the 4th vol. of the Geol. Soc's Trans. if at Mr Doolittle's, which I presume is the fact, & they shall be forwarded by the first opportunity.

I shall look for the remaining sheets of your memoir, & am not sorry you have made it so full. It is in my view the ablest thing that has been done in that way on this side of the water; still, I think that had you been less pressed, the style might have been, in some instances, rendered more neat & perspicuous, & I should have taken more liberties with it, had not my health been, during the printing of it, very feeble & the pressure of duty very heavy.

You must not be greatly surprised, if the botanical catalogue should lie over still another number & appear in Vol 7 nos. You must not

think that I do not duly estimate it, or that I am disposed to procrastinate, but I am obliged to pay some regard to local & sectional feelings, & the jealousy that there should be too much at one time, from one quarter. Still I do not say that we shall not get it into the next No. I would only drop a hint by way of intimation.

A MS catalogue of books was wrapped (I conclude by mistake) in the other papers. It is directed to Mr. Cook of Hartford. I will consult Mr. Hovey, & if he does not understand it, I will retain it, till I hear from you. Excuse the freedom of my remarks, & believe me with respects to Mrs. H. truly yours with great esteem & respect,

B. Silliman."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1823, Feb. 16. "N. Haven Feby 16 1823
My dear sir,

I am sorry you are so unwell & oppressed with care. I know however how to feel for your being obliged to labour in this very condition a great deal of the time. If your communication can be here by the 10th of March it will answer, but I should wish it by that time. We can in the mean time be printing what you have already sent but this will of course commit us to have the rest without too much delay.

I think under all circumstances it will be best to defer the catalogue & I will return it to you by Mr. Hovey when you can make the proposed additions.

Your Botrychium is printed & coloured. I am glad you find such able men on your side. Your bundle of the sixty copies has been sometime done up ready for transmission but no opportunity has occurred. Will they be of any use to you without the sequel & had you not better let it lie & be packed up with the second & c part & with the map & two other prints which contain some of your figures, or if you prefer colouring the map, had not the whole concern better be sent to you at once which probably can be done by Mr. Hovey at the May Vacation.

Your journal I presume is gone. If not I will see that it goes by the next mail.

Hoping that you will soon have better health, I remain my dear sir,
very cordially yours,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1823, May 5. "NH. May 5 1823
Dear sir,

You will be disappointed in not seeing the whole of your essay in No. 14. I found it would occupy nearly half the no. There was much & various matter as you will see & I could not otherwise satisfy my correspondents. Your essay also divided very conveniently at the "Scenery" which will appear in the next no. & there will then be room for addenda should you have any. Under these circumstances I suppose you will not care to have your 60 copies forwarded but would wish them reserved till midsummer when on the completion of the essay I will forward the whole at once.

I return the catalogue agreeable to your request & of course leave any future disposition to your better judgment. I will insert it if returned altho - possibly, from the impatience which is manifested on the

subject of botanical catalogues, it may perhaps be expedient to divide it between two nos. As to the cryptogamic plants, I am disposed to think it would be best to make that a separate paper. Dr. Ives thinks it would have been best that your botanical notices should have been separated from the Geological paper.

As to the case of conscience: I am sorry to say that I have no doubt as to what you must do, although the world ought to be more just than to say any thing as to the accidental association of names. But still I think the impression on religious people would not be agreeable & those of a different character might sneer. Cannot you publish the thing anonymously? You would then have much of the same credit as now, without any danger of odium.

Cannot you write a review or at least something of an intended notice of Conybeare & Philips for the Journal? My health is so fluctuating that it is very doubtful whether I can do any thing of the kind or rather it is certain I cannot. Should you be willing to do it I will send you some abstract of letters from M. Maclure on the subject of the book.

I think it would be rather hazardous to write any thing on the subject of the connexion of the Mosaic chronology & geology in the Spectator, because the readers of that work (even clergymen) would not understand you at all, & cannot be at all judges of the matter. Even Prof. ---- [sic] observed lately, in a sermon professedly on the subject, that he did not understand its simplest elements & was willing rather to suppose - fish - fowl - beast - & shell created just as we find them in the various formations, rather than depart from the puerile & vulgar apprehension of five days of 24 hours. Sooner or later, there must be a full discussion of the subject, but mere theologians & philologists are entirely unqualified either to discuss the subject or to understand the discussion.

I cannot say any thing of Nantucket & Martha's Vineyard. If you go there the best way would be to visit Boston first where Judge Davis or Dr. Webster or their friends could tell you all about that region.

I admire your hammer very much & if you do not send me something more perfect it is very possible I may notice this in the next no. of the Journal..

Our riot was a small affair & completely put down at once both by the College & civil authority. The stories were very much exaggerated.

I hope you will come this way this season altho not this month as I must be off somewhere for health as I have been very good for nothing this spring.

The Journal will appear in a very few days. You will observe that I have succeeded in melting not only charcoal but plumbago & anthracite so that the diamond is now the only unmelted body & this I do not despair of as I think I have softened it.

I remain dear sir with great regard, truly your friend & servant,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1823, Dec. 4. "New Haven Decr 4 1823
Dear sir,

Agreeably to the directions contained in yours of the 25th last, the package containing your memoir was committed to the care of the stage

office here on Saturday. It was to go to Northampton via Hartford directed as you request, & I trust will reach you soon. I did not see Mr. Converse when I gave the direction for the bundle's being sent but will soon request him to forward you the bill. This I would not consent to, did the work command the recompense which it ought, but I am now obliged to pay an assistant editor & doubt whether the receipts of the year will cover the additional expense.

I am sorry that any omissions have been made in your piece other than those which you could wish. The truth is that at the time I committed the thing to Dr. Percival & for weeks after, I was too feeble to pay any attention to the subject & gave him ample powers to do as he saw fit nor did I know that any thing in this section was omitted not having examined the Journal since it came out. As to the errata they were sent to the printer with your remarks & c, just as you sent them to me. I fear they have got lost. Before I put them into the mail I will call on the printer & enquire & if I add nothing more you may conclude that they are lost. In that case if you will send them on again they shall be inserted at the end of Vol. 7 which would indeed be their proper place.

You will instruct me whether to put your name to your review of Philips & Conybeare. The reviews in the Journal as well as in other similar works of the kind have generally gone anonymous. I trust you will send me your sketch of Martha's Vineyard. Have you seen the July no. of the Christian Observer? If not you will read Farber's remarks on the mosaic Cosmogony with much interest. He is full on our side altho' I attach no importance to his notions respecting the length of the Sabbath of the Creator.

My health continues gradually to improve.

I remain my dear sir as every truly yours & with great regard, B. Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1824, Mar. 6. "New Haven Mar 6 1824
My dear sir,

Immediately on receiving yours of the 1st I packed all the books which you mentioned & added Granville Penn's book on the Mosaic & mineral Geologies which I have just received & have not read but am willing you should read it first & return it as soon as you can spare it conveniently. The other books am not in a hurry for.

Your analysis will be in season by the 8 or 10th of April & I am glad you are willing to undertake it. I will speak to the Editor of the Spectator & again to Mr. Converse as you request. As to your bill & the spare copies of any of A & Sc, I sent the bundle to the care of Mr. Solomon Stoddard Northampton - paid to Hartford - by stage & would have paid through but they would not receive it here. You will of course pay Mr. Stoddard.

Do not persist in writing if it will injure your health. Mine is a little better. I have for nearly five months pursued a milk diet for two meals.

Pardon my haste & brevity & believe me always with great esteem & regard, your obliged friend and servt.,

BS"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38

1824, Mar. 20. "New Haven March 20. 1824

My dear sir,

I most cordially and feelingly condole with you on the late afflicted bereavement in your family. I know indeed, from early experience every pang you have suffered, & hope you may sooner recover from the shock than I did from my first loss of this kind - that of my eldest son. You will present my respectful condolence to Mrs. Hitchcock, whose suffering will of course, embrace all that belongs to yours with the addition of what a mother only can know.

But perhaps we are selfish in mourning so deeply for those that are 'bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh,' for it is the irreversible order of providence, that we must lament or be lamented, & the only condition of protracted life, is the chance of new surround for the death of those whom we love. The sooner we come to the habitual contemplation of the absolute uncertainty of all our possessions, and to an unqualified resignation of mind to part with them whenever called for - the better.

The death of infants & of other very young children is always attended (in my view) with so much consolation, that I can look upon the calm, sweet expression of their little bodies sleeping in death (now excepting even my own children) with a degree of pleasure which has little alloy. For I consider the declarations of our Saviour, as deciding the point that his sacrifice will cancel their original taint, and neither scripture nor reason will justify us in believing that there will hereafter be a penal retribution awarded to any thing but actual transgression.

The death of half mankind within the age to which I allude, I consider as evincive [sic] of the mercy of God to our fallen world, in removing so large a part of its population, before they have become, in any responsible sense, moral agents. I know that these views interfere with Metaphysical divinity, which I value little, compared with the consolations which, I think, I have a right to draw from the Scriptures. I am very sorry that your anxiety should have been increased by unskilful [sic] medical practice, but I have followed to the grave, four of my own little flock, whom the skill of the wisest & most devoted physicians could not save.

As to the review, make it the recreation & refreshment of those hours when you might dwell with too much intensity in your sorrows, and do not oblige yourself to execute it any faster than you can do it both comfortably & well. Although it would be acceptable (from its importance and high interest) it is not indispensable for the next number, as I have Geological matter in abundance on hand. - Execute therefore or postpone it, just as you find it convenient.

I have spoken to Mr. Mitchill respecting the Review for the Spectator. He says that department is occupied for the next two numbers, but that he will write to you.

[torn omission] again reminded Mr Converse of the bill [torn] he promised to forward you without delay.

Mr. Finch in a recent letter desires me to express to you his thanks for the handsome notice which you have taken of his piece on tertiary formations.

I remain Dear Sir with the expression of my own and Mrs. Silliman's kind sympathy for yourself & Mrs. Hitchcock,

Yours very truly,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1824, June 12. "New Haven June 12 1824.
My dear sir,

On my return, four days ago, from Washington I found your letter of May 28th with the Book on the Mosaic & mineral Geology.

In the name of the college I return you thanks for the copy of your geology of the Connecticut which you have been so good as to present to the library. If an opportunity presents I will recommend the book to the class but the state of my health still leaves it doubtful whether I meet the class this summer. I am better, but far from being confirmed, and my friends think that I ought to reserve my strength for next winter. I will mention your work in the next No. of the Journal. I am sorry to learn that your health is so feeble & would not have you put it in hazard on account of the Journal, although we are laid under a kind of necessity of completing the 'Review' in the next No. If the remainder were in hand early in July, perhaps I should print it under the first head, but if not, it can go [loss] as in the last No. under a miscellaneous [loss] head. I trust the Journal has reached you before this & hope you will find your article correctly printed. You will observe that I made a few slight alterations. The Books you may retain as long as you have occasion for them.

Mr. Eaton's book I have not yet seen although I understand that he has been here in my absence & promised to send me a copy. If I notice it I will endeavour to # in your qualification.

I thank you for the offer of a copy of your book. It is however unnecessary as I have it all in the Journal.

Wishing you well through the toils of building & better health, I remain dear sir, yours with much esteem,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1824, Aug. 13. "New Haven Aug 13 1824
Dr Sir,

I have received the whole of the Review of Buckland and am much pleased with it. It will appear in the present number.

I am extremely sorry to hear of your ill health, but do not think the review bears any marks of it. I am quite obliged to you for your labour on this subject.

You need not trouble yourself to send back the extra copy of the Journal until you have a private opportunity to come yourself. I expect to be here 'till after commencement but hope you will time your visit so as to be here at the meeting of the Geological Society at that time. Col. Gibbs will be here. I still wish you to send the copy of Buckland to Genl Van Rensselaer [sic] and to write him when you send it.

I remain with great respect, Most truly yours,
B Silliman

P.S. I will propose Doct. Emmons as a member of the Society."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38
1824, Aug. 23. "NH. Aug 23 1824 [date follows signature; except for signature, this note is not in BS hand]

Dear Sir,

Mr. Eaton has written me pressingly for Professor Buckland's book. This is all he wants for before setting out on his tour to examine the western caves. Be so good as to forward it immediately by the Stage & write to Mr. Eaton or General Van Rensalaer [sic] by mail. If you can put the box under the care of some passenger it would be very desirable but I would send it at any rate.

I remain truly your friend & sevt.,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 38

1824, Dec. 27. "New Haven December 27. 1824. [except for signature, this note is not in BS hand]

Dear Sir,

I will send you the copy of Conybeare & Phillips by the first opportunity. If none occurs sooner I can send it directly to you by Mr. Hovey in about fortnight from this time. As to exchanging minerals, I suspect Mr. Phillips would readily accede to a proposition of this kind, but I would recommend to you to apply to Mr. Griscom on the subject. He is Mr. Phillips' particular friend and would be the medium of communication between you.

Mr. Parkes has expressed to me a strong wish to obtain very good specimens of American trilobites and other American fossils and I presume he would send you English rocks in exchange. Dr. Webster is however I presume in correspondence with more European Mineralogists & Geologists than any other man in this country and I presume would be able to help you on this subject.

The printers have delayed the Journal unexpectedly. You may rely however on receiving a proof of your astronomical paper, and I wish you would return it with as little delay as possible and with your corrections especially of the characters made as legible as print. If the ink spreads it will be better either to erase [?] on some good paper and write the corrections on this, or to write them with a pencil with a very sharp point and then to trace them over again with a sharp pointed pen. This I have found to be a good method to prevent ink from spreading.

I have not yet had time to examine your 'topaz' and therefore did not append your description to your list of localities. There will be time however to make the examination before the Journal is finished and to insert a notice among the miscellanies.

It is certainly desirable that there should be no errors in the statements made of the localities of minerals, but it is equally certain that those who make the communications and not the editor are responsible for them. I am not disappointed at suggestions of this nature from the quarter which you mention. I have long thought that there was a willingness there to supplant the 'American Journal' and that the wedge which they are attempting to drive was entered for that purpose.

I have received your reply to Eaton and will insert it. I could wish however that when you write him a private letter you would mention the subject in a conciliatory way. The notice which I wrote of his survey on the great canal, implying censure on his arrogance, which censure I expressed still more frankly in a private letter joined with your late communication, may perhaps influence him to think that there is a

systematic plan to oppose him which as he has both considerable influence and energy and unbounded confidence in himself, I should wish to avoid.

By the bye, suppose you give us some account for the Journal of Dr. MacCulloch's new system of rocks. It would I presume form an interesting article. I remain Dr sir, truly your friend & servt.,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1825, Feb. 2. "New Haven Feby 2 1825

My dear sir,

I am glad you found your piece so correctly printed & we were very glad to receive the proof back again as we had been several days in waiting for it. Mr. Tutor [?] Twining revised it & I trust it will be correct. I forwarded Conybeare & c a month ago or more by a young Mr. Synde of this place to the care of Mr. Wells as you directed & I have no doubt you will find it there. Mr. Synde is, I believe, a member of the school of Messrs Bancroft & Coggswell.

Your mode of disposing of your cabinet is ingenious. I should be very glad to add to it when in my power, but I find that with my feeble health & inevitable avocations I must not attempt to form collections - single specimens I can sometimes forward. These remarks are not however in reply to any thing you have said or hinted but to my own feelings. If some one will bring the joint of greenstone here in a sleigh for a dollar, I will pay it with our thanks but it would answer to find it in boats & waggons [sic] by weight. The Society is poor & is in my debt for disbursements.

Dr. Morse wants a concise but luminous popular sketch of Geology & Mineralogy for a new edition of his Geography & has applied to me. It is impossible for me with my health to do it but I have mentioned you & he will write to you on the subject. Perhaps you will not thank me but no! is a short word & may be paid in a kind way. He mentioned the Review of Buckland as containing many ideas hat he wanted & I think you might introduce a correct view of the Mosaic Geology. You must not work for nothing & if the Dr. cannot pay you money, stipulate for copies of the work to a proper amount. I hope you will be able to do it.

I remain very truly your sincere friend,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1825, April 14. "New Haven April 14 1825

My dear Sir,

I hope the written letter will not offend your delicacy. I have heard some hints as if your name was not forgotten at Amherst & if it is in my power to serve you it is certainly my wish to do so. I think this might afford a change of occupation favorable to your health & to the continuance of your #fulness which I grieve to hear is put in hazard by the present state of your health. Should you have the offer at Amherst by all means accept. There are many men who will be glad of your present situation & will completely fill it & the situation of a Professor although arduous has many more alleviations than that of a clergyman. If you think that my letter will be of any use to you you can easily have it conveyed to Amherst, by a private hand, & dropped in the P Office there or in some other P Office. Should they wish to refer to me for a more

detailed opinion I will cheerfully give it. If you care nothing about the affair just throw the letter under the fore#.

I am glad you were pleased with the last No. of the Journal & I am vexed that you are still teased [sic] with two more Nos. I will make one more effort to correct this blunder. 50 copies of the Journal were ordered a few weeks ago from London & Mr. Miller the bookseller who writes is very sanguine as to the # of the work in England if properly pushed there. If I had health to work as I am disposed, I think I could now make it go, with the assistance of my good friends but I am not possessed of much physical energy.

I was aware of the criticism that might be made on Mr. Maclure's remark, but perhaps there is a # in which even theology would admit its truth at least in a degree. For it is ignorance of moral duty & of our ultimate destination joined with ignorance of other things which is the chief cause of our woes. The heart must also obey but it cannot obey while the mind does not know. When I see you I can perhaps give some explanation of Mr. Maclure's irritability.

Mr. Samuel Morey [?] of Oxford NH is my boulder man. I know nothing of the facts which he describes. I shall pay for your ninth volume & should any more duplicates come for you just let the extra one lie in the office. I should be glad if the few things which you have in embryo & if they are not nature for the birth before summer should be glad of them then, say June or July but not at the hazard of your health.

I am sorry to hear of your & Mrs. Hitchcock's loss which is severe indeed - These things are past our comprehension.

Mr. Dewey has recently forwarded some beautiful drawings of your lady's hand. They are now with the engraver & if you or she do not forbid me perhaps I shall make bold to put her name on the plate with a date - as they would do her honour. I am glad that the engraving of the Cypropodium pleased you & that you are satisfied with my imperfect examination of the topaz.

Is not the mineral you gave me for spodumene rather scapolite? I am not much acquainted with them but Dr. Webster has sent me specimens exactly similar which recalls scapolite.

Yours most truly & with the best wishes,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1825, July 27. "New Haven July 27th 1825
My dear sir,

I have been compelled by unavoidable exigencies to delay till now answering your letters of May 30th & July 12. As to a professorship my impression is that if your duties are reasonable in extent & your compensation such as to excused you from the necessity of doing extra duty in order to earn money to live, & also such as to permit you to spend your vacations in recreation, at least as far as it shall proved necessary, that then your chance for lasting would be as fair as any where. My health was destroyed by the pressure of twice the amount of labour which I ought to have encountered & much of it undertaken to eke out a deficient salary. The proposition before you requires too much. I have no hesitation in saying that if you undertake all that is proposed & go on with your usual zeal, you will not last long. If they will absorb the parts thus - Nat. Philos. & Nat. Hist. - or Chemy & Nat. Histry & with

& with no other recitations that those which are necessary to review & fix the subjects which you teach, you may then go forward comfortably, although in my opinion Chemy Min & Geol are quite enough without super adding Botany. Of, Natural History alone is enough without anything else. Let me impress upon you the importance of not being in any way induced to undertake too much. A Chemical course while it is going on is a complete engrossment of all your time & all your powers & I would never undertake again to teach any thing collaterally with it.

As to undertaking a couple of chemical demonstrations without a previous apprenticeship in the practical part, I must say that I think you would meet with much embarrassment & lose much time & expense which must be saved by going through with an experienced person and your standard of excellence would probably be lower. Should you conclude on any such arrangement you need not be afraid that I should do every thing in my power to aid you as to your relation to your people. I should be very sorry to do any thing to impair the cordiality or destroy the permanence of a connexion which I understand from Mr. Morey & others is highly useful & agreeable & I should hesitate much as to the course of duty, unless there is really a prospect of your obtaining better health & moving in a more extensive sphere of restfulness. On this topic I confess myself unable to form a decision. I believe your services particularly valuable in your parish & in your community especially in the present crisis of religious controversy. I do however believe that you would excel in scientific pursuits &, other things being equal, I could wish you to be placed in a situation to indulge your peculiar powers with action. Should you adopt the semi-agricultural plan & the semi-scientific, I would most cheerfully aid you in procuring a proper situation as far as might be in my power. As to your analysis of Dr Macculloch's [?] classification of rocks I should be glad to receive it for the Journal provided you can prepare it without injury to your health & not otherwise. It is true that the establishment of several Journals has contributed to curtail the communications to mine, especially from the great cities, & I really cannot feel as if the production either of # or copied Journals would compensate for the failure or for the crippling of one, which with a little more effort in its favours, would be to the nation what the North American is in literature. Had all those who ought to have been the friends of the Am. Journal done as much as you have, or been as true to it, it would not have been at this time a question whether it could be sustained & were all who profess to be friendly really so, I should not have occasion for the distrust which I sometimes feel. As to the Spodumene I am very confident that Mr. B[torn loss]en has written to me that he has extras [torn loss] the lithia from that of Goshen & I thought that the fact had been published but do not find it in the Journal. The topaz I should be glad to see more of, & will do any thing in my power to ascertain. I think most certainly it cannot be the emerald. The sibrolite I am not very familiar with, but according to my impressions of it I should never suspect the Sillimanite to be it & certainly there is no analogy between the very extraordinary proposition as to contributions for the Boston Journal & cannot think it quite a dignified course.

You observe we have lost Mr. Dutton, a severe calamity to us & his family. Nothing has been done yet respecting a successor.

Hoping that your health may soon be restored, I remain my dear with the best wishes for your welfare, very sincerely your friend,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1825, Aug. 6. "New Haven Aug 6 1825
My dear sir,

On the 28th last I wrote to you on the subject of your change of occupation &c. & I now wish to call your attention for a few moments to a topic connected with this. You mention that overtures are made to you both from Amherst and Middlebury. Of course one of these places at least will be at liberty as far as you are concerned & both should you conclude to remain where you are. We have a young man here, Mr. Alex Twining, whose term of engagement with us is nearly out, & whose qualifications in Mathematics & Physicks generally are of a very high order & probably equalled [sic] by those of very few men of his age. He was a favourite of Prof. Fisher who thought very highly of his talents & attainments & indulged the most favourable anticipations of his future #. In his habits of mind as regards science he is indeed very much like Prof. Fisher, proportionately fond of science - acute - accurate - rapid & neat in his researches - learned in every thing related to the topics [sic] above mentioned & holding a high rank as a general scholar with the advantage of two or three years at Andover, one here as a resident graduate in immediate connexion with the late Prof. Dutton as his assistant & of two years employment as a tutor. His age is I believe about 24 or 25, his health remarkably good, his temper amiable & cheerful, his person & manners respectable & gentlemanly & his devotion both to science & to other interests of learning as connected with its Institutions such that I have no doubt that if favourable situated he would rise to the first eminence.

Then why not obtain so remarkable a young man in his own Institution to fill the vacancy now existing in it?

His name has been mentioned & undoubtedly would command serious attention were it not that the prospect is in his own country. He is a native of this city & the people here have seen him grow up from childhood, as it were, in a few days, & what is more to the point still, his father although an excellent & most useful & trustworthy & capable man, is unfortunately unpopular from peculiarities of manner which however lean (rather too implausibly perhaps) to virtue's side, for it is his unbending integrity & his unbending manner of showing it, that more than any thing else, have produced the unpopularity which attaches to the father & has also although very indefensibly descended to a degree to the son. Owing more to the influence of feeling & opinion in this town than to any other cause, Mr. Twining has been at times made the subject of undefended odium & of petty & unreasonable criticisms which in my opinion would not have been made in another place & which were he established in another institution would not follow him there. This is all the drawback that there is in his case & were it not for this he might be retained here & very possibly would be, as a professor & with high advantage.

I know his wishes for a scientific employment & have volunteered this communication without his knowledge. If you can use it for his benefit & that of the Institutions in question you are at liberty [torn loss] to do it either with or without my name & I have no doubt that the President & Professor Ives [?] would unite with me in this recommendation as I know their sentiments to be the same.

I remain my dear sir as ever most truly & sincerely your friend,
B. Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

February 19, 1826. "I have been unable to sooner to reply to yours of the 23rd of Jany.

I did not much expect you to return; should you think it worth while to do so and this season & God spares my life & faculties I will do every thing I can for you with hearty good will & am glad that you think I was desirous of serving you for, so I certainly was, whatever may have been my ability to do so.

The topaz piece is in the press. Benjamin & I retouched it & on the whole I think it will not discredit you provided we are right in our main point as to the mineral. I confess I am not exactly at ease on that question although I cannot see what else it can be. It is however an obligation on which I am your endorser & if you fail they will come upon me. I am so much pressed with the course (lecturing every day) that I have done nothing about the lithia but will try before the piece is through the press which will be yet some days.

My nephew will write you about the articles of apparatus. Shelton has made the apparatus for fluorspar & I think with his usual neatness & ingenuity. I fear it is too large - if so this is my fault & you may if you prefer a smaller establishment, return this to me & I will take it & procure you another. I was sorry to find that the air jars were 5\$ a piece. Mr Hovey paid me. We have been sadly worried here with the influenza. College has been a great habitat & the Chapel in an uproar of coughing. I have a ## Clark of Louisa very dangerously ill with the disease & a slight attack of it finished the days of our venerable mother Mrs. Trumbull, Mrs. Silliman's mother, but she died in faith & we cannot doubt has gone to inherit the promises.

Mrs. Silliman unites with me in affectionate remembrance to Mrs. Hitchcock & yourself. Excuse my vacant page [one side left blank]. I must now report to the sick bed of my poor young man.. I remain my dear sir yours with respect & affection,

B Silliman

[P.S.] My respects to your good Prest."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1826, Feb. 25. [This letter is by nephew and signed "Benj. D. Silliman."

BS senior usually heads letters "New Haven..."]

"Yale College Feby 25th 1826

Dear Sir,

You will, I fear, think me remiss in the execution of your commissions, the result of which I hoped you would have received before this, but owing to my ill health during the vacation & consequent confinement to the house I was unable to attend to them until near its close. Mr. Chilton very readily complied with your requests but it was not in his power to have the articles prepared in time for me to bring them on with me. He promised me however that he would forward them to my care as soon as practicable & as they have not yet arrived I wrote him a day or two since requesting him to send them on without further delay. As soon as they arrive I will forward them to you together with the casks which are here & which I detain until I receive the others, as it will be

safer & cheaper to send them all by one conveyance. I will as soon as I know the amount settle with Mr. Hovey for them as you request. Mr. Shelton has finished some apparatus for you which is in Mr. Hovey's possession.

There is a letter here for you postmarked from some part of Massachusetts which I will send with the other articles. The article upon the Topaz will be in the Journal which will be out in a few days.

I need not tell you how much we regret the necessity of your decision not to return to NH and hope that as soon as your Chem. Course is through you will be inclined to pass the spring & summer with us.

If at any time I can be of service to you either here or in NY it will afford me much pleasure to receive & execute your commands which I hoped my Dear Sir you will not hesitate to send me at any and all times. Please give my best respects to Mrs. Hitchcock. Several of the students are quite sick & one (Clark from Lou-a) died yesterday of the Lung fever. The faculty are generally well. Mr. Olmsted has commenced his lectures and is much liked.

I remain dear Sir very sincerely your friend & servant,
Benj. D. Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1826, March 20. "New Haven Mar. 20 1826 -- Y Coll. [sic]

My dear sir,

We congratulate you on the birth of another child & what I believe very good husband feels still more, the safety of the mother. I am aware that all danger may not be over during the first few days, but trust that every thing will go well & that Mrs. Hitchcock will soon be restored to comfortable health. You will present our very kind regards to her and accept them yourself.

Having an opportunity to send directly to Phila by Mr. Gibbs of this institution, I have him a \$5 note & desired him to obtain its worth n Potassium. He is hourly expected & I will commit it to Mr Hovey to be forwarded to you, as soon as it arrives.

I presume that ere this, you may have seen the Journal. As I have already said, I do not feel perfectly at ease about the topaz, but on examining its character as attentively as possible & comparing again with acknowledged specimens I cannot make it any thing else & believe it will so turn out, but we must expect close criticism; if it is not topaz I am quite confident it might be a new mineral which would be better than to have it turn out to be an old one.

The Journal is now come to a stand. Mr. Converse relinquishes the publication being about to remove to N York & it is soon to be decided whether it will live or die. I think it probable that in order to save it, I might take the thin on my own shoulders business & all but I cannot carry it unless the patronage can be increased or the expenses diminished. To make it safe, both these objects ought to be affected. Your friendly influence I am sure of & that of your institution I presume. I have an offer to remove it to Phila but there are many objections to that arrangement. As soon as any thing is matured I will let you know.

My nephew sends his regards & says that the two boxes of N York apparatus were sent three weeks ago to the care of Profr Hall [?] & that he (BDS) wrote you by mail about it.

Hoping that the return of spring may prove beneficial to your health, I remain my dear sir very truly your friend & servant,

B Silliman

[P.S.] Lane has been over & brought some specimens of topaz but promises to explore for more & come again when I trust we can send you some."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1826, May 3. "New Haven May 3d 1826

Dear sir,

Yours of April 18th is received. Mr. Hovey paid me the 5\$ for the potassium & any apology is entirely unnecessary. I had an opportunity to send to Smith without the least inconvenience.

Jane has written that he has found topazes as transparent and beautiful as those of Saxony. We wrote that he must send them over but none have as yet come. I have seen no notice of the paper on the topazes from any quarter at which I a little wonder & Webster in a private letter written since the Journal was in his hands says nothing about it. Mr. Cotton at # has Buckland. You had better write to him immediately (by my authority) & ask him to send you the book, as he has had it these six months or more. Write soon or he may send it back first to New Haven. I am glad hat your experiments succeed so well & that you find my suggestions useful. Mrs. S is well as yet & unites with me in affecte remembrance to yourself and Mrs. H.

The Journal is to be published by Maltby & Woodward at their risk & I expect that the next No. will be out early in June.

In much haste, yours very truly,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1826, May 22. "NH. May 22 1826

My dear sir,

I am going directly with Profr Abbott & his brother to view the colleges & in the mean time prepare a hasty reply to your letter with the sketch of the laboratory. I think that you have disposed of your space in the best manner & do not see any thing very important to suggest it. As your room is so low that your seats cannot rise much, would it not be well to let them be upon the floor & raise your own area some 2 or 3 feet taking care that your tables cistern &c are as low as they can be & allow of being reached with convenience.

As to the tubes through your office & apparatus room: I do not think that they will materially injure the draft provided they enter flues which rise to the top of the building without being connected with any other flues.

I have two letters from Dr. W since I wrote. He continues silent about the topaz & has never even asked for a specimen. Lane has not yet sent over his new specimens & I fear he will not before it is too late for this No. of the Journal now in the press.

My health is pretty good for me but I have had no relaxation from duty, not having stirred from home nor expecting to do so until my geological course is finished. There is no change as yet in my family. With my kind regards to Mrs. Hitchcock & Mrs. Silliman's also, I remain dear Sir very truly your friend & servt,

B. Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

October 6, 1826. [Written on blank pages of a prospectus for the AJof Sci and Arts, an appeal for subscribers.]

"NH. October 6 1826

My dear sir,

My sincere belief is that Mr. Shepard could find in Dr. Hare's [?] laboratory a more elaborate & full course of chemical labours with more finished manipulations than any where else in this country & my advice to him would be to go to Phila especially as many incidental advantages would result from a residence there. I will not however be incourteous if he should wish to come to New Haven & will do all the good in my power although in the multiplicities of the laboratory it is desirable to have no more than can be usefully employed.

You see I have been stating the case of the Journal intending to have one of these put into every copy of the No that now goes out. I do not wish to give you any trouble with the subject any farther than to furnish you with facts.

I remain my dear sir with kind regards to Mrs. H, yours very truly,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1827, June 1. "New Haven June 1 1827

My dear sir,

I will thank you to keep sight of the enterprise at S. Hadley that we have a statement of the facts for my next No. I shall presume what is in yours of the 29th but probably by the time the journal appears (September 1) the state of facts will be materially changed; what you have already mentioned is interesting & important but as I am sure that you & Dr. Morse [?] will still agree to band together, you may as well go that way occasionally as any other & give me report of what is doing. There is something very remarkable in that water-spouting noticed in my March No.; it is too frequent to be accidental & probably depends on general causes - aerial I presume at least in part.

I am very glad to hear that your health is so much better but I am sure that you could not have been quite done over at New Haven or you could never have written that energetic description of weakness & drawn that animated & bright picture of gloom & darkness which you gave us in the Christian Spectator. It was very well done but it almost persuades me that I was only a borderer upon the domain of dispepsia [sic] & that I never penetrated into the heart of the empire.

I thank you for the crystalized maple sugar which however I have no yet seen - but I shall be very glad to put it into our collection of sweets especially as chemistry is so prone to acidity. Mr Shepard has already labelled a great many of our bottles. Two more Hitchcockiana & I am so much pleased with it that I must request you to secure me a little of the sulfate of barytes when you have an opportunity & to give me a notice of his very neat & permanent mode of labelling & of your influence in using this material as a pigment also. You see I put you in requisition on several subjects. The price you mention for galvanic apparatus is cheap but it would be a pity to put in that thin zinc. I have written to Phila for some of the thicker kind of rolled zinc but would have such small plates as you propose to have cast in preference. I

am very glad you are going to give an abstract & review of Mol#ted. It well deserves it & you can use the siphon to aid you in abstracting which I hope you will do copiously & for the next No.

Such a course as you mention on natural history would be very interesting & probably our paucity of means & time have prevented it being done.

In much haste yours very truly,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1827, July 28. "New Haven July 28 1827
Dear sir,

I thank you for the supply of sulphate of barytes &c which you mention that you have forwarded to the care of Mr. Bruce [?]. I have not yet sent for them but will direct one of our waggoners to get them.

I forgot to mention to you that Moldenhauser [?] has now relinquished his connexion with the mineral comptoir at Heidelberg & his successors are David & Adolph Zimmerman. If you do not obtain the catalogue I believe I can find for you another among my papers.

If you are able to get your communications ready for the No. of the Journal which will come after the present one so that I may have them in October it will answer. The present No. is nearly half done & will be out punctually September 1, the next to follow (I trust) Decb. 1. I see no difficulty in making a pneumatic cistern entirely of metal & in that case you will probably let a tube for a chimney pass through that you may have a draft for your fire, otherwise you may be annoyed by the gasses & the heating will be imperfect. I should be shy of brick [here a very simple pencil sketch] & mortar unless it was merely to support the metallic sides & perhaps a wooden frame would do better for that, or the form might be elliptical which would support itself. I know not of any source for water proof mortar in this country except the hydraulic lime of N York & of Southington Count.

I will request Mr. Shepard to put you up a specimen of the Glauberite & remain my dear sir, yours as ever,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1828, March 10. "New Haven Mar. 10 1828
My dear sir,

I have been this winter a poor correspondent & must beg your pardon for my silence, but you know how many cares I have, in the winter especially, & this winter they have been increased by my attempting to get a text book into shape for my class. I persevered till January, since which time I have been obliged to suspend the work. I hope soon to resume it & to have it ready for my classes next fall. Dr. Howe [?] has been doing the same thing, as I recently find, but he is ahead of me as his work is already most of it finished. I believe however that we have taken somewhat different directions & that there will be no interference. Indeed there could be none in any event as both are chiefly text books.

I am glad you have succeeded with your galvanic instruments. Mr. Shepard tells me that you have done very well.

The April No. of the Journal is just receiving its last touches. You will be perplexed to find that your pieces are not in it. This was

occasioned by the late arrival of Eaton's Report & the account of the Welland & Canal to both of which I was pledged. Your communications shall however appear in the July No. There is a review of Mr. Olmsted's Geology in the Southern Review, a new one lately started in Charleston So. Cara. I am told it is crowded (for although I have the work & have been unable to read it) & I presume that it will not render the appearance of yours nugatory; should I think otherwise on perusal I will inform you.

Your friend Mr. White has acquitted himself well during his course of study & at his examination. This department has been very amiable but I could never get him within my doors.

With kind regards of Mrs. S. & myself to Mrs. H., I remain dear sir truly yours,

B Silliman.

[P.S.] You mentioned to me that you had a new demonstration of polarization of light; could you sent it to me with permission to insert it in my book should I think it appropriate to my design? Any thing that you have met with that is new would be acceptable for the same object."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1828, May 26. "Brattleborough, May 26 1828

My dear Sir

Returning from the White Mountains with a few friends & not being certain that I can visit Amherst, I beg leave to name to you two of my companions & to request that you will put them into the way of seeing your Institution for which purpose they will make an excursion from Northampton.

The gentlemen referred to are Messrs. Cortland Van Rensselaer & Mr. John B. Church, the former are alumnus & the latter a member of the senior class in Yale College. They are young men of the most respectable & estimable character & their friends are of the same description.

If you are engaged they will not wish any thing more than that you should place them under the protection of some gentleman connected with the College.

I remain my dear sir, with great regard, yours very truly,
B. Silliman."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1828, June 4. "New Haven June 4 1828

Dear sir,

I wished to visit you in my late tour but could not conveniently do it & must reserve that pleasure to another opportunity. The direction formerly given by me was copied from a letter in which it was so obscurely written that I was not sure I made it out correctly. Have I yours amended directions correctly -- viz Messrs. Concleve D. & M. P. Brantz?

Fulminating silver I always divide into small parcels of a grain or two, on separate pieces of paper (card is the best) & the crushing is done principally by gentle trituration with the filaments of a feather. I hope you will not repeat the experiment with the knife & the glass which I should think very hazardous & you got off well that you were not seriously hurt.

I cannot resume my chemical text book till I am through with the geological lectures. From that time on till it is finished I hope to make

it my chief employment & I hope to get the first part making half a volume done in time for my pupils # & the other half by the time it will be wanted. My object is my own pupils to enable them to follow advantageously & intelligently my own course of instruction & to recite it. A new elementary work is not needed for the science or the public.

My precise object now is to request you in turn to aid me in this way. You know my course mode of teaching & illustrating &c. My effort will be to put my pupils in possession, in terms of the greatest brevity that is consistent with perspicuity of the leading things in the science & in my course & I shall include as much as possible of the applications to the arts & common phenomena. Now be so good as to put down from time to time such things as occur to you as corrections, additions or modifications & I shall give them full consideration.

I will mention your cisterns but wish more precise facts & will not forget the sulphate of barytes.

I do not propose to have many cuts, a few in wood here & there.

I thank you for mentioning the works on natural history & congratulate you upon the birth of a son.

Hoping that both he & Mrs. Hitchcock may do well, I remain dear sir,
yours very truly,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

Aug. 8, 1828. [written on printed announcement dated August 6, 1828, about dissatisfaction of Yale students with their board]

"Yale. Aug 8, 1828

Dear sir

It has not been in my power till now to say any thing definite as to the visit to Wilkesbarre. I have been waiting [sic] their reply to my letter answering their application. They will pay my expenses & nothing more, but the thing is so desirable in itself that I think -- providence permitting -- I shall go. It cannot be till after our commencement which is on the 10th & for any thing that I now see I might start within a day or two of that. My purpose will be to visit not only Wilkesbarre which is the subject of my invitation but the Schuylkill, Lehigh & Laxawana [sic] region & if it had been possible to push the jaunt to Pittsburgh & see the bituminous coal, I should have wished it, but there will not be time.

As to you company and assistance I should prize both very much & I would apprise you thus early that the result of your observations may appear in the Am. Jour.

Let me hear from you whether you can go at the time proposed. It might be made later but I think I could not make it earlier. Cannot you obtain leave of absence for a few days should your term commence before our return. Your journey would be of great use to your pupils.

Mr. Shepard is not yet returned from Quebec; he has been gone four weeks.

Dr. Cooper has been here & passed two days; he took of me Cordier's very interesting memoir & volunteered to 'get it' as he termed it & gave me the quintessence for the Journal, I hope the No. now in the press. The new No. is going on in the works [?]. If you have any thing don't let it be long in coming.

Our refractory boys are chiefly gone home & we are quiet & regular again. The seceders are beginning to come back & submit & we have many

letters from parents and guardians who entirely disapprove of the course pursued by the students. Whether they get back depends upon the merits of each case which when application is made will be separately considered.

I remain my dear sir as every yours very truly,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39
1828, Aug. 11. Yale. Aug 11, 1828
Dear sir,

I wrote to you last week respecting the proposed jaunt to Wilkesbarre &c, & the next day received yours of Aug. 7, relative to the milk whitewash. Mine has been made with good new milk, instead of skim milk, although I do not see any reason why the latter should not answer provided it be not sour so that the albuminous portion is, to a degree, separated. I have never used it upon wooden buildings nor upon brick. I put some of it upon stone & it adhered very well, but it was only a few weeks ago. I have no doubt it would answer well upon brick, for common water white wash will last for years upon brick & I presume that milk white wash would do better. I suppose however your were first to make an experiment upon some portion of the back side of one of your buildings, that it remain through the next winter & if it should appear well as I doubt not it would then proceed with the application.

Aug. 18.

My unfinished letter has lain because I hoped daily to hear from you & as the period shows nigh when I must decide about the Wilkesbarre jaunt I hope you will let me hear from you soon. I should wish to go by the Lackawanna mines, I suppose by New York & Newburgh or Kingston & then across the country to Wilkesbarre. That would be a centre from which to # & get the other coal regions or taken them on the way to Phila. or perhaps go from that city to the Schuylkill Mines. I am not greatly informed as to best class of operations but expect soon to be.

My impression is that from this place the tour will occupy three weeks at least, perhaps 25 days. I hope you will come; pray write immediately & let me know your views. Besides your company which would be very agreeable to me, I should highly prize your professional assistance & advice. If you come let me know how soon after the 10th of Septr. you could start.

I shall take pleasure in noticing Cordier in the Journal but it must be done soon as I must finish the October No. before I go. I am glad that your young men have translated it; it will no doubt interest many.

If you are willing I will thank you to prepare the analysis which you suggest, but this I would suggest. [sic] Dr. Cooper was lately here & took my copy offering to find me a review & analysis for the Journal, which, should he execute it I must of course insert, but I have doubts whether he will ever do it & if not yours would be very much desired by me, and I think the labor would not be lost as you would have it for your own use. I have not been able to touch my chemical book since last winter. If I ever get it done I can certainly have no objection to its use elsewhere. I should be happy to visit you at commencement but cannot.

Very truly your friend,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1828, Aug. 20. "Yale. Aug 20, 1828

My dear Sir,

I have yours of the 16th & find that I was incorrect in my last. I had confounded the Lackawanna & the Laxawaxen [sic]. The latter empties into the Delaware from the West 20 miles above the junction of the Delaware & the open canal which leaves the Hudson at or near Kingston (Esopus) [?]. The object is to obtain the coal which is on Lackawanna & this empties into the Susquehannah a few miles above Wilkesbarre. A rail road is to carry the coal from the Lackawanna to Laxawaxen. From this last it passes down to the Delaware, then down the Delaware 20 miles by a # canal (the river not being navigable or not at any rate convenient) & then it takes the canal to the Hudson. It would therefore be very much out of our way to go along the Delaware & Hudson canal which we wished to see it for its own sake. The best course will be to start from this the day after the commencement (the 21st of Sept.) & we can reach Easton on the Delaware to pass the Sabbath. Then two days I think must bring us to Wilkesbarre taking # Church on our way, the great head quarters of the Lehigh Canal. From Wilkesbarre an excursion not exceeding I presume a day's ride will carry us to the Lackawanna coal. We then return to Wilkesbarre, then Mount Carbon. The head quarters of the Schuylkill coal is about 18 miles I believe. At any rate a day will carry us there, then we can take Phila. on our way back going down the Schuylkill & seeing its improvements. Or, if your time is too short you can go directly back to Easton & go home.

If you wish to start before me I think you may count upon me at Easton (#) Sept. 13 or 14 & at Wilkesbarre about the 18th where C.D. Shoemaker Esq. will give information. If you prefer taking a few days earlier you can easily pass to Albany, then down to Kingston -- less than have a day in the boat -- then pursue the route of the Canal across to the Delaware & go on to the Laxawaxen & by the rail road to the Lackawanna & so to Wilkesbarre.

I now think that three weeks from this town will be sufficient.

Let me hear from you soon. In much haste, yours very truly,

BS"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1828, Aug. 27. "NH Aug 27, 1828

My dear sir,

Since writing you last I am induced to believe that it may be impossible for me to start from this, the day after commencement. There are so many people & things still hanging in the mind. I shall hope to get away that week. Perhaps you would like a day or two in NY & let me overtake you there. You should get a pretty liberal allowance from your faculty for the way, as I really think we may have a fine opportunity among the coal mines & if you could command time I should be more than half disposed to extend the tour to Pittsburgh in order to contrast the bituminous coal with the anthracite formations. I travel in the public conveyances. Let me hear from you, a word or two before you com on.

As ever truly yours,

B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 39

1828, Sept. 13. "New Haven Sepr 13 1828

Dear sir,

I have received the copy of Cordier's essay & beg you to return my thanks to the senior class for it. You will observe it is mentioned at the end of Prof. Cooper's analysis; I had but a little nook of space left & crowded in that short memorandum.

I last evening received your other letter in which you mention that you had received mine announcing my intention of relinquishing the journey. I intended however in case you actually arrived at Albany with the purpose of going to proceed with you but I am glad that you got my letter. It is now my purpose, providence permitting, to go next spring & I give you this early intimation that I shall be happy in your company. Just turn it in your mind if you & I can obtain a dispensation for a little more time, say one week earlier & one later than the vacation -- whether we could not stretch on as far as Pittsburgh, perhaps even Cincinatti & #ville [Janesville?] & thus see the bituminous as well as anthracite formations. I think that at least Pittsburgh could be reached. These are only hints to the wife [sic].

Yours very truly,
B Silliman"

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 40
1829, Feb. 9. "New Haven Feby 9 1829
My dear sir,

Yours of the 8th ought to have been answered sooner but I have been in the press [sic] all winter & my time much filled. Besides the Journal which is a standing dish [sic] I have been putting myself on paper as regards the outlines of geology in an appendix to Bakewell & it will also appear separately. My part is about 127 pages. I think you will find that we are not very wide apart about the dominion of fire & water & I have not entered into any critical discussion about Genesis, choosing rather to trust to the facts to gradually bring the criticism right than to provoke a controversy. As the chemistry will not be ready before next fall perhaps you may find it convenient to substitute a view of the rise & progress of Geology in this country & Bakewell might be your text. I think such an article would be both agreeable & respectful & is needed in this country. I certainly have no objection to the other & perhaps you may do both taking different times for the labor. Suddenly I received from Mr. De La Beche just as my little sketch was about finishing his tabular view of every thing above the old red sandstone including organic remains & thus was able to make two or three important corrections. This tabular view is very large -- a sheet of 3 1/2 feet by 2, fine print in parallel columns with captions.

I thank you for your sermons which I shall by all means read but have not found time hitherto.

I should be glad to receive your account of the American tin & a little specimen if possible.

By the bye, I will just drop a hint to your private ears because I am not in a condition to talk publicly in the same way. If you write for the Journal I may have it in my power to make you a little compensation.

You observe that we have lost our eminent & useful Dr. Smith. May we be prepared to follow.

As ever yours most truly, B. Silliman
[P.S.] Mrs. S. will attend to your request."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 40

1829, March 12. [Date after signature:] "NHav. Mar 12 1829"

"My dear sir,

I understand that a review of Bakewell & of American Geology was expected from you for the Christian Spectator in its new form but that it is delayed by your ill health of which I am very sorry to hear. I hope you will soon be better & I now write to you to say that Mr Horne intends forwarding for your acceptance a copy of the American edition of Bakewell & that in the interim you can borrow one of your booksellers to whom several copies have been forwarded. I would send you a copy of my outline separate but to not know now of any opportunity. I will do it when I have one. The Outline is I believe not exactly like any other & perhaps you would like to notice it, altho' I do not ask you to praise it or to give it any other treatment than you would the work of a stranger. Perhaps, however, it will be thought too geological by the theologians & too theological by the geologists. Pray note any errors, omissions, superfluties or indiscretions, observing that the philosophy of geology was I aimed at. [sic]

I trust we shall see your review either in the North American or in the Spectator, & remain in haste, yours as ever being cordially,

B. Silliman."

BS to EH, Box 3, folder 40

1829, Aug. 5. "NHav. Aug 5 1829"

My dear sir,

Just after closing a letter to you this morning I received your two dollars for which I thank you. I cannot tell who has the Reliquiae but I wrote to Dr. Webster about it: I am however still without an answer. If I can track it, it will write to you.

I can have no objection to your inserting my edition of Bakewell in your list of studies but on the contrary should be gratified by it. I have no objection whatever to binding up the appendix which you propose & will do it, you furnishing it in season.

You will observe however that even [?] upon my plan:

1. Three of the purple gases out of four are together or very near.
2. The simple non metallic combustables are together.
- 3 . The metals are together.

I have objections to the electric arrangement; Dr. Turner has stated them substantially.

I am very much obliged by your frankness; it is just what I want & when you write again if any thing occurs that I can alter for the better do not forget to mention it; for instance whether too full or not full enough, too much condensed or too little, generally clear or not &c. I should like your plants & a notice of them. Will lithography do? If it will you may send them at once in my care to the Messrs Pendleton's Boston. Should they not then be done on sized paper? so that they can be coloured? If Mrs. H (your good emanuensis to whom you will present our kindest regards) can do them I should be obliged & she must not be offended if I pay for them as I would elsewhere. I have a pack of newspapers from almost every part of the country containing all of them [crossed-out words] many of them warm notices of the Journal & I think it probable that 100 subscribers may be added; that will help but there

ought [sic] twice that number acquired. I cannot find that they are doing any thing in NYork but they will if they think they can make it go.

I thank you for your friendly disposition towards the Journal & its editor & remain as ever truly your friend,

BS

[P.S.] If the lithography will not answer I will have the plates done by engraving by a competent artist, not however Mr. Doolittle. 900 should be struck of if Mrs. H will color them. They can be sent to you direct without any further orders from me. I am sorry to hear that your health is not firm.

It is not supposed that the Chemistry can be quite done by Sept. 20th, but it is proposed to do it up as far as done, say to the metals for the use of those who want it earlier & to send the remainder afterwards."

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Silliman to Hitchcock 2

Silliman-EH 25

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