

VB36#2

Coast Survey Office
Washington, December 30, 1872

To Mr. Charles S. Peirce
Assistant U. S. Coast Survey

Sir

You are hereby directed to take charge of the Pendulum experiments of the Coast Survey, and to direct and inspect all parties engaged in such experiments - and as often as circumstances will permit, you will take the field with a party organized by yourself under the estimates made in the usual manner and approved by the Superintendent.

You will be allowed in the performance of your duty for your subsistence one dollar and a half when engaged in office work, and three dollars while you are in the field.

In combination with the pendulum experiments

you will investigate the laws of the deviations
of the plumb line and of the azimuths
from the spheroidal theory of the earth's figure.
For this purpose you will confer with the
Surintendant in charge of the office, to whom
the investigation of the best spheroidal figure
to satisfy the geodetic observations has been
entrusted; with the chief assistants in the
computations; with the chief of secondary
triangulation; and with the various assistants
in the charge of triangulation parties; and
will visit the parties in the field whenever
it may be required to get the proper
information concerning the practical operations.
Should it be found expedient to put into the
field parties for the especial purpose of
detecting deviations of the plumb line or of
azimuths, they will be under your especial
direction and inspection.

You will make an annual report

to the Superintendent of the State of your
Department of investigation, and make
such suggestions and investigations as may
be required to perfect the theory of these
local deviations.

Yours respectfully,
Benjamin Pierce

Capt. U. S. Coast Survey

P.S. Your estimates have been approved and some
of the disbursing agents with whom please under-
stand the same needed for instruments may not be
now available.

D. P.