

# SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1902.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND ITS  
AFFILIATED BUREAUS.

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A LETTER from Professor Franz Boas concerning the Bureau of American Ethnology, published in this issue of SCIENCE, calls attention anew to the unsatisfactory status of the bureaus of the Government under the supervision of the Smithsonian Institution. The anomalous relations which the National Museum has long sustained to the Smithsonian Institution were considered at length in SCIENCE, N. S., Vol. V., No. 106, January 8, 1897. The conclusions reached in that number of the journal are summed up in the following paragraph:

"There is no logical connection between the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museum. The museum is a most important institution; it is now well established; its maintenance is demanded by the people, and it will thrive under a competent director, responsible only to Congress or to the head of some department under which it could properly be placed. The usefulness of the Smithsonian Institution will be increased by the diminution of burdensome administrative duties which were never contemplated in its original

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