

17. Queen's Road W. M.
20 July

My Dear Charles

I send you a copy of the Scotsman, sent to me to day for a paragraph on the Factory Inspectors Reports, but containing a paragraph also on the National History Chair that it is important you should see.

I met Playfair to day at the Athenaeum who echoed the sentiment of the paragraph, though he was not aware of it, and the delay is so very serious not only to the Edin^g Univ. in order that the Professor may prepare his course for next Nov, but in the case of Almann, for whom a successor must also be provided if he is chosen. Now I think Sir G. Gray will not be able to stand the pressure that will be made upon him, & will be forced to decide very soon —

I took not the least notice of any thing you mentioned yesterday, but Playfair had somehow learned

locutus & Edin^g

Had you had been with Sir George
on Saturday - I happened to say,
"Geology must go to the wall if
Alman be chosen" - upon which
Playfair observed - "you are much
mistaken - Griffith thinks quite
otherwise, & says he has been for
four years attending to palaeontology
& with some success - I know also
has a high opinion of him, and
says he will be a very great
help to them in their palaeontological
department in Dublin, if he goes
away."

I tell you all this - because it
may make you consider it ne-
cessary to write again to Peter
Bell - I confess that this article
in the Scotsman & also Playfair's
said considerably diminish my
expectation of Dawson's success -
Playfair is all against the
division of the Chair & says that
is an almost universal feeling at
Edin^{burgh} -

Affectingly Yours

Leonard Horner

53 Harley to Loudon
July 2. 1854

My dear Dawson

Mr Bell will probably send you by this post a letter of mine stating what had passed at a meeting with the Lord Advocate & Home Secretary; & on or two others & ending in no positive result this in showing that the choice was reduced to two candidates & rather depended on it seems taken as to the subjects most necessary to be represented of the chair remained one & undivided rather than an any setting up of the superior scientific claim of the two rivals of which you were one. I mention this to you sure

plainly that I did to say
what I have not the pleasure of knowing as
Bell & ~~Waring~~ ~~had~~ up with but
let it go further. The opinions
I have heard to day about the
best Irish Geologists, & the
Mr. Allman's paleontological
requirements give a more inter-
esting than any other circumstance
& alter the idea I entertained up
to yesterday as to the advisability of
your coming over on the chance
of a second chair being formed.

It is not so much the time it
would take for you to be here as
the time required for forming a perso-
nal acquaintance under favorable
circumstances & opportunities with the
best man now scattered for the
vacation. I have not time to
ask Mr. Horners leave to send
you his note what please de-
sire I do not send any par-