

Edin 16 Feb'y 1855

My dear Sir

One thing I have learned pretty certainly since I last wrote you, namely, that no formal application has yet been made to Agassiz. That it was intended I have no doubt, but the intrigues with the Government taking place at the time, no step has been taken in that direction.

I should have begun by acknowledging receipt of yr. letter of 30<sup>th</sup> ult. which bears up

an important announcement, -  
the fact of your work being  
put to press.

Since I wrote last I have  
been doing what I could concerning  
the Professor, and to day  
there appears in the Scottish  
Press an article from the  
pen of our mutual friend  
Wreig, exhibiting Agassiz  
on the one hand, and you  
on the other. Although  
I have not had time today  
to read the article myself

I am so satisfied it will  
have a powerful effect that  
I have ordered a copy to be  
sent to each Professor in  
the University, and one each  
to Lord Pemberton, Sir Chas  
Grey (the new Home Secy) - his  
Charles Lyell, Sir Richard  
Murchison, Adam Sedgwick  
Copy of ~~two~~ or three ~~more~~ two  
& a copy is addressed to myself. I  
- finished MSS here &  
have just done for you, which  
I would have strongly urged  
had you been here to be can-  
-sulted; and ~~sent~~ sent you

will approve of this step.

You are now fairly launched before the public, and yet we must not relax our efforts until the matter be decided one way or other, leaving the result to Providence after we have done all the duty we can in the circumstances.

I have met with a courteous reception from all the Professors I have called on, and they are all aware of the strong recommendation for C. Lyell

was given of you.

The duties of the Chair  
having been provided for  
during my <sup>absence</sup> absence, there  
has been a lull among the  
parties interested, either di-  
rectly as candidates, or by  
their friends, but this paper  
in the Press will stir up  
discussion, and I do not fear  
that you will lose in pub-  
lic estimation by any  
or all of these things, but  
on the contrary, will gain  
more friends.

I have just learned that  
Mr. Blas Cavan M.P. upon  
reading the article referred  
to immediately wrote to  
Lord Palmerston on the  
subject and although I  
do not know the tenor of  
his letter I have the greatest  
reason to believe it would  
not be unpropitious to you.

I should have noticed that  
in sending these copies of  
the Press, I took care to have  
them marked so as to draw  
attention to the article.

Please say to Mr Dawson  
that James' address is  
9 Great Ormond Street  
Russell Square  
London

Jane wrote to Mr Dawson  
on the 5<sup>th</sup> Lawr, and we unitedly  
wrote again by next post, and  
also by the following one, and  
this makes the fourth in success-  
ion, be so good as say whether  
you received them all.

Jane requests me to tell Mr  
D. that we are now getting on  
famously with our House; having  
paid off the Architect we have

P. Bell 1835  
thrive every day since.

Wrights, Mason, Plumbers & Slating  
are all busy at work. The  
House cost £400 and the alterations  
will amount to about £200. The House  
rent is £5 yearly - Rents £56. 10/-  
so we see the return will be tolerably  
good. The flats are all let to good  
tenants.

I have no time to give any  
domestic news but doubt not Mrs  
Primrose will have done so in  
her letter.

I am united with me in kind  
regards to you, Mrs D. and the  
children, not forgetting your worthy  
Father and I remain,

Yours very sincerely  
Peter Bell