

St. M. J. G. Y.
My dear Dawson

Jan: 17 / 71.

89 Glo. Pl.

Postm: Sq:

For a man so completely free from care
or even healthy employment to forget to send
me the title of the Anti-Darwinian Book I sent
to you is so monstrous as to be incredible — but
still true — at the first convenient opportunity
send this letter — for Barraude has written twice for
it —

Now about George — He is going on most satisfactorily
He is gaining both health and strength — eats &
studies better — He is well clothed for the winter
& had a new warm great coat from Edinburgh
10 days ago

I have called at his lodgings
thrice lately but have not found it him at home
(at 4.30 p.m.) — The Landlady Mrs. West says

there is perfect peace in the house (I saw a good find)
for who could quarrel with his companions — least
of all, George, who is sensitive she says but by
no means quarrelsome — You must know that
I asked Mrs. G. how they agreed —

George has a much easier winter this season

because he has more sitting

MCGILL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
ACC. NO.	221 32
REF.	2

Now as to your Bakerian Lecture two months ago the Clerk R.S. did not know that any referees had been appointed — Their names I could not ask — ^{but} it is better for you not to know —

There are very few to ask — One of the Gold Medals was this year strongly contested between Heer and Davidson the Brachiopodist — Sabine the Pres. was alone for Heer of Zurich — and all the others for Davidson, who won — to the worthy man's unspeakable delight —

Of course you soon will tell you that Sir R. Murchison has resigned the Directorship of the School of Mines & the Survey — and that Ramsay is appointed in his place —

There is very small probability of Sir Roderic returning to public life, ^{but he is gaining muscular power.} — and a very great loss he will be both generally, and to many young men — His private charities, Robert Jones tells me are very great — to young men in difficulties &c &c

His attack of paralysis is severe — and altho on the whole, his kindly nature remains, yet from time to time, after restless nights, he

I am working steadily at my Thes. Devonicus
The Catalogue-part is done - Of course I should
be glad of more American fossil material
It is on a plan improved from the Thes. Scler.

I am now working on the Commentary -
Mr Carruthers has revised my "Plants" - and has
not made any considerable alterations. He
will write the palaeont.-botany part of the Comment^y
about 4-6 quarto pages - He is a candidate for
F.R.S. with what success I know not - He is a
married man I find with two or three children
He is at the head of the Botanical department of the
Br. Museum. -

I am trying for a share of the annual £1200
Pension in the gift of the Prime Minister for Mrs
Hopkins. Widow of W. Hopkins of Cambridge, the
mathematician, Geologist - and maker of First
Weagers - Empower me to add your name &
that of Sir W. Logan to the memorial in his
favor - I have no doubt of success - Sir
Henry Holland will personally see Mr Gladstone
about it - and other Big Personages will be active
Mr Hopkins was my second cousin -

is veritable - The papers of today say that Sir R
Murchison has not resigned - And his Physician
tells me he is much disturbed about the report
& that he has no idea of resigning -

Geikie of the Scotch Survey was sent to the Lipari
Islands to observe there caught a fever & has been long
ill at Edinb - I think he is better now but not well.

Dawkins who works in Caves is engaged on an important
work - the formation at Manchester of a Geological & mine-
ral and palaeont. Museum - with very extensive materials
in his hands.

Sir Charles Lyell is pretty well - busy geologically, for I see
him dosseted at the School of Mines - & the Geological Soc^y - but about
what I do not know

Last Wednesday ^{Moffellan} the publisher dined at the Geolog^y
Club - picture of a frank shrewd Scot - Just such another ^{a few} is
Dr Davis of the Baptist College - where your George was ^{the} weak
ago -

Give my kind regards to Billings - of course I want all
manner of Devonian fossils - but I don't like to ask - Also to
Whiteaves - I am glad to find him employed -

I beg to be kindly and respectfully remembered to Mrs Dawson
& to Miss Dawson - and I do not wish to forget Logan &
Stony Hunt - I am my dear Dawson

sincerely yours
J. S. Bigsby

My wife & myself are pretty well
but my wife is sadly distressed by her sight & hearing &c