

Feb 21. 1876

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Keely

P. 59: ~ J

My dear Dawson

10A
I have not written to you for long - from much mechanical occupation in preparing my double Thesaurus - and in fear of increasing certain infirmities to be endured in extreme old age - And then, it is pleasant to have something to say to a man of numberless occupations - which I had not now was it likely for I see next to nobody.

The Devonian part of my Thesaurus is printed except four or five pages - The Carboniferous part will be begun instantly, and altho' twice the length of the Devonian will take much less time to print -

I congratulate you on the most creditable geological report of your son George - I have read it with great pleasure - It has earned for him a high

high station among his brother Geologists - especially when taken with his conduct and acquirements at the School of Mines - What a mercy it is that his health stands the exposure, fatigue & bad food incident to his mode of life! -

Your son in Paris I have not seen nor heard of my short interview with him shewed me that he had brains - and was determined to use his opportunities

I have a distant relative (a youth) now at the School of Mines who was selected to go with an astronomical party ^(Governmental) to Sicily 2 years ago - and came home delighted - His name is Lt. Col. of Derby -

Tyndal & Huxley have recently been giving brilliant lectures to crowded audiences at the Royal Institution ^{to}

Huxley's delivery was very fine - and the lectures unobjectionable - I hope to send abstracts of both when they are printed - Perhaps six weeks ago

I sent you a volume of Royal Institution Lectures I hope you have received them -

Together with my first wife, a charming person & thorough Christian, I passed a winter many years ago in the same house ^{at Geneva} with Lady Archibald - then a fine -

fine-spirited girl. There were also her mother and brother
we have been intimate ever since. I sent her two

your ^{last} little books -

I am specially glad to see your son at Paris engag-
-ing in Sunday school work - the most important
work under the son - and in which I never helped.

The son of a wonderful Christian Lady, ^{my friend} has been in
Paris for about a year helping a Mr Mackay? to
preach the Gospel to the working men there. His
success has been very great - He has several preaching
stations. This young man is named Moilliet - the
grandfather being Swiss -

I hear your eldest daughter, a very pleasant &
lively and right minded, is become a Plymouth
sister - She might have done worse - but why leave John
Knox? I will work with any who love my master
and when the work is honest and useful - My love and
respect to her - from ^{the} aged - (86th year) -

The new president of the Geological Society is most
probably Dr Martin Duncan - an extensive author
on Corals - an extensive lecturer (geological) & one of
Secretaries for 8 years to the Geological Soc -

Whitaker has published a very useful annual
Record

price 10/6.

I have ventured in humble imitation of far my
betters to found a Bronze Medal - bearing my
name - I think they are useful stimuluses.

Mine is biennial - Their value comes from the
eminence of the Council awarding -

I thought of a gold Medal - but I found it would
cost £ 300-450 - too great a sum to take from
my brothers who have families -

I learn that you are coming to London to give
lectures at the Victoria ~~Standard~~ Institute

I should be pleased if you w^d take lodgings
near me - and take all your meals with me
Good lodgings, but plain, with honest people
can be had close to me -

With a bladder complaint and the fadgally debilities
of extreme old age I cannot bear much intercourse
domestically It would be wise to bring with you
a lady friend - and I should rejoice to see
her kind face again - You have pleased my
friend Pattison greatly -

With my love to the Ladies & to George

I am my dear Dawson

Yours sincerely

J. J. Bisshy