

LENSFIELD COTTAGE, CAMBRIDGE, 18 OCTOBER, 1887.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM DAWSON,

I OUGHT TO HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU BEFORE TO TELL YOU OF THE CONDITION OF AFFAIRS AS REGARDS YOUR LETTER TO ME OF WHICH YOU SENT ME PRINTED COPIES, AND WHICH WE HAD PRINTED FOR OURSELVES IN THE MEAN TIME. IT IS TRUE I HAD NOTHING PARTICULAR AS YET TO REPORT, BUT I SHOULD HAVE INFORMED YOU WHY THE MATTER WAS FOR THE PRESENT IN ABEYANCE.

THE LETTER WAS RECEIVED SHORTLY BEFORE THE END OF THE SESSION OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY. WE APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL, BUT AS AT THAT TIME OF YEAR PEOPLE WERE LEAVING LONDON, AND MANY OF THEM GOING AWAY FOR THEIR HOLIDAY, IT WAS NOT THOUGHT WELL TO CALL TOGETHER THE COMMITTEE WHEN SEVERAL MEMBERS OF IT MIGHT BE ABSENT.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SOCIETY IS NOT TILL THE THIRD THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER, BUT THE COUNCIL MEETS EARLIER, AND MOST PEOPLE WHO TAKE INTEREST IN SUCH MATTERS ARE BACK NOW. A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SUMMONED FOR A DAY THIS WEEK. I DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG IT MAY TAKE TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL AND AGREE TO A REPORT FOR THE COUNCIL.

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 28, WITH THE ENCLOSURES RELATIVE TO SCIENTIFIC FEDERATION, WHICH I WILL OF COURSE

LAY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

I DID NOT GO TO THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION THIS YEAR. AS I HAD HAD A GOOD DEAL OF BUSTLE BEFORE, I THOUGHT I WOULD TAKE IT QUIETLY. I FATHER REGRETTED AFTERWARDS THAT I HAD NOT GONE, FOR I SHOULD HAVE MET A NUMBER OF FOREIGN AND COLONIAL MEN OF SCIENCE.

I CANNOT YET TELL WHETHER THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE READY FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

I REMAIN YOURS VERY TRULY,

G. H. Stokes

SIR J. WILLIAM DAWSON F.R.S. & C.

*Stokes
Oct 1893*