

"The Parsonage"

Augusta Ga.

December 11, '86.

To Sir William Dawson  
Montreal Canada,

Dear Sir:

Seven years ago, I had the pleasure of sitting under your course of lectures to the Students of the Auburn Seminary, New York. The high estimate I then placed upon them, together with your universal reputation as a Scientist, induced me as a Director of the Columbia Seminary of South Carolina, to introduce your name to the Board of Directors of that Institution, as a gentleman who could render us invaluable service just at this time. This Seminary as you doubtless are aware, has been passing

through a very severe ordeal, in consequence of the position ~~of~~ one of its professors, the Rev. Dr. James Woodrow has taken on the subject of Evolution. Dr. Woodrow's attitude in holding to his chair for nearly two years against the will of the Church, necessitated the closing of the Seminary. The Board, however, has now succeeded in removing him from his Professorship so that this controversy is finally settled. We have re-elected Rev. Dr. Girardeau, and hope to elect at once professors to the other vacant chairs, with the exception of the Chair of Natural Science, in connection with Revealed Religion, (the Chair occupied by Dr. Woodrow). In lieu of a professor for this chair, we

have decided to secure eminent gentlemen, who from time to time, will lecture to the Students, and my object in writing you, is to extend to you, in the name of the Board of Directors, a very cordial invitation to the South, for this purpose, should you see your way to accept this.

We have no doubt that from the surrounding cities of both South Carolina and Georgia, a large number of our best people would avail themselves of the pleasure of hearing you, and many would do all they could to render your visit to the South, exceedingly pleasant.

The Seminary will re-open in September 1887, and the time of your visit, we will leave entirely with yourself. Our object now

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in writing you is, to complete our program, so that we can announce our staff of professors, and also the lecturers. Of course all your expenses would be paid, and the Board would further consider the extent of its obligations to you, and as far as its resources, would allow, will certainly discharge them.

I am dear sir,

With great respect & esteem,  
William Adams.