

I find that Jane's letter has been cut  
short much against her will she in-  
tended to write a long letter and says  
she must not leave it till the last  
day again - while writing, Mr. Chesby,  
Wright came in and sat a long time,  
he had scarcely gone when the Misses  
Heaver came in and before they were  
away Mr. Carr came to spend the after-  
noon, so that I am had soon to bring  
to a close (being sole housekeeper just now)  
and attend to household duties, the  
two eldest girls being at a distance,  
so resume my discourse,

called on Professor Simpson today  
and said to him "You have given up  
" Agassiz now I suppose, what do  
" you say to Rowson. He told me  
he certainly thought you had had the  
best chance but that a clamour is  
now got up against you in Rowson  
that you are a hyellite, or in other  
words that you will indorse all

that gentleman's opinion. I told  
him I did not believe you would  
be yourself to any man's opinion.  
and I shall write to Prof Simpson  
to-night asking him to give this  
allegation a distinct denial (for  
he had hardly time to speak a word  
to me and I could not continue the  
conversation longer) Prof. S.

bid me give you his Compliments &  
say that if he had had anything  
particular to communicate he would  
have written to you. He said

in conclusion that if you could come  
in time it would be of course given to  
remove the impression which prevails  
in some quarters and is likely to  
damage you.

Allman's friends  
he farther said are making a strong  
push for him. The Dublin people  
have taken him up warmly!

On the whole this last piece  
of information about the Clamson  
against you as being a bellito is  
the strongest reason to my mind for  
deciding in favour of calling  
and meeting your opponents  
and ~~also~~ refuting and silencing  
them.

I must now conclude,  
having exhausted all I have to  
say on the subject and  
with kindest regards to you  
and Mr Dawson I remain

Yours very sincerely  
Peter Bell

As I was about to close I received  
another note from Sir Chyell in which he  
says "in order to place the whole affair  
"pro & con before Mr Dawson I sent him

"Mr. Womersley's observation on the pressure  
"of power without bearing on the Home Secy  
"is not in favour of this or that candidate  
"but urging him to appoint someone &  
"showing the mischief of delay."

"This may go in favour of Mr. Dawson, of  
"exponent, perhaps, with whom I am personally  
"unacquainted. I sent the Article in the Scots-  
"man on the same subject to Mr. D.

"I must now leave it to them alone as  
"I could not with propriety interfere more  
"the whole case being before the Government  
"and stated I believe fairly, and a difficult  
"one enough to decide upon, so much so,  
"that were I in the place of the Government  
"I might feel in as great a dilemma as  
"they do" signed Ch.

your own unfettered judgment on the matter, and not feel constrained to do a thing  
disapproves. If the meeting of the Brit. Association (which takes place on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept)  
a sufficient inducement for you to come, that may help to decide one way or another. If you do resolve  
to come you would require to have something fresh and new to read at the meeting. Your time on this board  
would be profitably employed in this, if you are not sea sick. Finding that O.P.'s package cannot go  
by this mail (consequently the clothes would be too late for you) I have ventured to retain the suit of clothes  
and would forward them to London to same address which is 9 Great Ormond Street, Russell Square,  
and should you after all not come we must just get them sent out by the next opportunity that  
offers. I propose sending the clothes to same address as I presume you would make your appearance in  
London first. Would it be any material increase of expense for you to run down to Boston (if there is regular  
communication) to get the steamer for Britain (this would gain a week, as I cannot suppose you would get away  
by the first regular packet from Halifax). I again saw Dr Wilson today and gave him one of the copies  
of your Book I had just then received two copies. Dr W. was very much obliged for it - He told me that a  
vised the L<sup>d</sup> Provost against selecting a divellan of the Chair. But admitted the Govt had not yet decid-  
ed that matter - the difficulty of giving endowing a second chair is the great obstacle - and the risk of  
reducing the endowments of both is another - I remain very sincerely as end of Mr Bell's letter.

Dr. W. very properly advised  
said if Mr Dawson is

On the 29<sup>th</sup> 11. 55

of addressing you on behalf of my friend  
Chair of Natural History in the Univ<sup>y</sup> of this City for which he is a Candidate (in consequence of the appointment  
being postponed) to ask if your Grace the favour to inform me whether you think it would be desirable and  
proper for Mr Dawson to come over to Britain and present himself before the Members of her Majesty's Government  
who are charged with the duty of filling up the vacant Chair, and in particular to wait upon your Grace

in reference to this matter. I shall feel deeply obliged of your Grace will be so courteous as give me a  
reply to your early communication"

say that I should recommend Mr Dawson to come over to this Country - to press his own claims as a  
Candidate for the Edin<sup>burgh</sup> Hist<sup>orical</sup> Chair. They have been urged by persons of great distinction and I am not  
aware that mere personal applications would materially improve his position. At the same time I only am  
sensible of this question because you have asked me my own impression. It is a matter which ought to be de-

sidered by those who are specially the advocates of his claim. I am Sir your obedient (signed) Argyll  
You have seen the whole proceedings of the last few days placed before you and notwithstanding  
all that has been done, said & written in reference to your coming at this apparently late stage, I wish you to see

any particular Candidate. But he politely  
tains from any expression of opinion in favour of  
appointed I shall be happy to receive him as my colleague.

I wrote to the Duke of Argyll in the following terms. "My Lord Duke. I take the liberty  
of addressing you on behalf of my friend John William Dawson Esq of Pictou Nova Scotia, with reference to the  
Chair of Natural History in the Univ<sup>y</sup> of this City for which he is a Candidate (in consequence of the appointment  
being postponed) to ask if your Grace the favour to inform me whether you think it would be desirable and  
proper for Mr Dawson to come over to Britain and present himself before the Members of her Majesty's Government  
who are charged with the duty of filling up the vacant Chair, and in particular to wait upon your Grace

in reference to this matter. I shall feel deeply obliged of your Grace will be so courteous as give me a  
reply to your early communication"

The Duke replied as follows. London 3 July 1855. Sir I cannot  
say that I should recommend Mr Dawson to come over to this Country - to press his own claims as a  
Candidate for the Edin<sup>burgh</sup> Hist<sup>orical</sup> Chair. They have been urged by persons of great distinction and I am not  
aware that mere personal applications would materially improve his position. At the same time I only am  
sensible of this question because you have asked me my own impression. It is a matter which ought to be de-