

G. M. Dawson

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Dear papa,

I have got two letters from home since I wrote Cast, the first informing me that you had received the news of the arrival of the "Lake Erie".

I wrote you some time ago, about Syll & Muschison's opinion abas as to a lecture on Devonian, which they thought ought to be before the Royal, or Geological, also that they thought a general lecture on that subject (Devonian plants) would make a very good lecture for the Royal Institution, & I undertook Muschison to say that he could get you an evening appointed. I have been once to Dr Buxton's to dinner, and spoke to him about the subject. He thought it would be excellent, and that they would be very glad to have you lecture. He said you ought to have plenty "pictures", & perhaps a dozen specimens, also some "striking facts".

He said however that an evening should be ~~be~~ spoken about now, or it might be

me occupied. Mrs Biggles was very ill  
when I arrived here, but was better, though  
not coming down stairs, when I was there  
for dinner. Dr Biggs thought you ought to  
give a lecture paper to the Royal Society, as you  
had not yet done so. I showed the casts  
to Etheridge the other day, he said he thought  
the cephalaspis quite a new type. The jaw he  
said appeared crinoidian, he wanted to know  
if the teeth were in sockets, which I could not  
tell him. I have since shown them to  
Prof Huxley he was busy at the time, and did  
not examine them very carefully. The cephalaspis  
he thought very interesting. Etheridge had asked  
if there was any trace of the body having been  
longer toward the head, but soft & not well  
preserved except the dorsal ridge, so I took  
the opportunity of asking Huxley if he thought  
such might be the case, he said he thought not  
that there were specimens in the British  
Museum, which showed exactly how they had  
been, a large fin at either side behind the head.  
The jaw he said appeared to be on the  
first blush, evidently Caranx without but very  
different from any he knew. He said that  
if it was the jaw that curved as it

appeared to do, he knew no labyrinthodont  
like it, & if as appeared more likely the  
curious appearance, was caused by a  
Coronoid process, that also was different from  
any labyrinthodont he knew. I introduced it  
both to Etheridge & Huxley as a reptile jaw  
and neither seemed to think of its being  
anything else, so I suppose it is pretty certainly  
so, I shall find out more about it however,  
and see about sending the casts to Dallas, & if the  
jaw is thought doubtful stopping your paper.

Prof Huxley said he was always discouraged, if  
about forty people did not come in, as was sometimes  
the case; after three in the afternoon, and that  
he would be very happy to see me if I wanted anything  
that he could do &c &c. He also asked me to  
remember him to you, and to say he was  
quite in earnest about dinosaurs.

Mrs C Lyell seemed especially pleased at the  
discovery of the Cephalaspis, & mentioned the establishment  
of the age of Devonian in Devonshire, as compared  
to that of Scotland by the finding of them there.

There are some very good specimens of cephalasps  
in the Gernsey St Museum. If you would  
like drawings or descriptions of any of them of  
course I can do them for you.

I was looking at a case of glaciated stones,  
and ice scratched surfaces, then, last Saturday

and noticed that all those marked from Glaciers, (in Switzerland & c) were grooved rather than scratched, and all the grooves parallel; not scratched in different directions on smooth surfaces.

The inorganic chemistry lectures go on till the beginning of the organic chemistry, <sup>which</sup> to begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and the physics begins sometime after, and does not end till the end or near the end of June.

It will take a long time to go through the laboratory work. To pass first class you must go through quantitative analysis. The method of study is this, Fresenius's analysis is taken as the text book, and after having prepared all the common gases & substances, and some salts, you begin with it and go through all the reactions for the metals & just as put down there, writing out all changes, as equations, in your note book as you go along. As you go through each group you get a "mixture" to separate. I have as yet only got through the Calcium, & Potassium groups. It takes a very long time to do a little of this work. Dr. Frankland's lectures are very interesting, and he gives us splendid experiments, some quite novel. He only comes

into the Laboratory, once every few days  
and goes round asking each one what he is  
doing. There are however two laboratory assistants  
or rather I suppose I should say a laboratory  
professor Mr. Valentin. & his assistant Mr. Bell.  
who show you how to do everything, and explain  
reactions &c.

You have not sent any of my photographs  
yet, please send me or two, as I have  
promised to send one to Scotland.

Please tell Dr. Carpenter that I sent his box  
immediately on arriving at Glasgow, as also  
the letters which began me to post. I don't  
know when I ~~will~~ <sup>shall</sup> have time to go to the  
British Museum about determining the South  
Pacific land shells, yet.

In Edinburgh I got a check on Messrs Smith  
Payne & Smith here, and Dr. Davies gave me  
a note to the Manager of the  
Bank whom he knew, and said would be the  
proper place to put the money. I accordingly  
went there a few days after my arrival,  
and have deposited there £50. I have got a  
book & a book of checks, but I don't know  
exactly how to go about it - when I want  
to draw money myself please tell me in  
your next. I enclose my accounts up to

today in this letter. I try to be as economical  
as I can but I fear you will not give  
me credit for being very successful.

I am afraid from what the Bells write  
that the apples did not arrive in very good  
condition.

Carruthers told Lyell that he had seen  
in some article of yours? in the Nat Hist  
Mag? that you said you expected to be over  
here before the end of this year. How did this  
mistake arise?

Mrs Bishop was very much pleased with  
the corey. She had not one, but knew  
and Dr Bishop said appreciated its use. He  
seemed to be much pleased with Annas picture  
& the process. Though I am sure, as I told Anna  
a picture of anything else would be preferable  
to one which gave no idea; except to a person  
who had seen the original. namely the case.

I hope I have not forgotten anything but I  
always think of something I ought to have told  
you, when the letter is gone.

With best love to all at home

believe me your affectionate son

George.

P.S. I intend to go if I can next Saturday to  
Roxbury. but please give me fuller directions when  
you want me to do anything as sometimes I don't quite  
understand you.

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