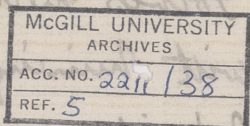


Serge
Larry
London Jan 29. 1871.



Dear Papa

I am quite undecided about whether it will be best to try the Natural History Examination this year or not.

The special subjects of this year, are besides Drawing, Mineralogy & Zoology. As the Natural History examination & these do not occur at the same time, there would probably be time to work up each of them if I could pass besides these in the first-class in Natural History it would relieve me for next year, & probably allow me to take up Mining or Metallurgy as well as the Geological section, which would then only consist of Paleontology. If I do not go in for the Natural History exam this year I might take it up again next year, (as many do) together with Paleontology

I stand a chance of the Edward
Forbes Medal. I might also do something
with Mining or Metallurgy, & in the Geological
Laboratory, but could not hope to pass
in either of these subjects as an Associate
with any certainty, (Relying on the Nat. Hist.
& Paleontology for the association).

If I do not take up the Natural History
examination this year I might go back,
in all probability, & without interfering
with my second years work; & the laboratory
for 2 or perhaps 3 months toward
the close of this session. Nat. Hist. &
Mineralogy lectures will be over now in
about three weeks. Geology will have finished
before the last week of April. Mineralogy
Exam comes not long after, & Nat. Hist.
& ~~Mineralogy~~^{Geology} exams not till June probably,
so that there would be plenty time to
look over both these subjects if I do not

take any laboratory work.

Since the examinations have been increased in difficulty, I don't think anyone has taken an associateship in all three branches, at least not in the three years course; I must have taken ^{their} associateship in only one branch.

The geological branch, including Natural History & Paleontology is the hardest, & "least paying" so that comparatively few go in for it, but try to work the Metallurgy & Mining together instead.

Please tell me what you think I had better do about this. I will continue to do as well as I can with Natural History, as well as the Mineralogy to the end of the course, & will try to give special attention to the Geology when it comes on, & by the time I get an answer to this will be soon enough to decide which course to take with regard to the Natural History &c.

The organic Chemistry begins this week, &

as it is at 10 o'clock, it will not
interfere with my other lectures, & will also
cause me to leave the house at a
regular & early hour, so I mean to
go to them again.

With regard to the summer, I do not know
which would be the best way of spending
it. It would be very useful to go about
with some of the Harvey men, & I would
no doubt learn a great deal, but I
do not know in what capacity I would
go. ^{any} connection with the survey, in the
way of paying expenses to would be, I fancy,
rather difficult to obtain, & to go as a sort of
amateur might seem like a sort of
intrusion. However, please act as you
think best with regard to this.

Please excuse this very epistolical letter, &
believe me your affectionate son

George John Dawson