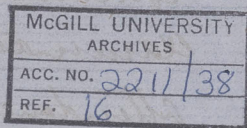


Gorge
May 14

London May 14,
1871



Dear Papa.

I saw Ramsay a day or two ago & spoke to him about the Summer. He said he had written to Mr — somebody who was working in a Picturesque part of Cumberland, & that he had said he would be very glad to see me there. Ramsay seemed to think that if I liked I might see a little of both Palaeozoic & Mesozoic. He promised to let me know more particulars about it before the end of the session. I should like if possible to be able to do something, & not merely hang about — as an amateur & trouble the person I am with. I am afraid like everything else this will prove an expensive affair.

Our Examination in Geology will
come off on June 3. Prof Ramsay has
conceived the idea of holding a "preliminary
examination" next Saturday, at which
attendance is optional, & as many questions
as you please may be asked. The preliminary
of course counts for nothing, & I don't myself
see that it will be very much used.

I have been attending the Palaeontology
lectures since they began & writing out my
notes on them. As the Geology exam comes off so
soon, & will be the last properly belonging to
this year. I think if possible of working up
the Palaeontology during June & trying to pass
in that this year.

With regard to next session. There seem
to be several courses per.

I. If I manage to pass the Palaeontology in
the first class this year.

- A. Take up the Natural History again, & Mining
& applied mechanics, & thus try for the
Associateship in Geology & Mining.
- B. Take natural history, Metallurgy & Applied
mechanics & thus try for Geology & Metallurgy.

II. If I don't get through the Palaeontology
in the First class (Very probable).

A. Take up Nat-hist & Palaeont. again
with Mining & Applied Mechanics.

B. Take Nat-hist & Palaeont again
with Metallurgy & Applied Mechanics.

C. Drop Nat. Hist. & Palaeontology &
Take up Mining, Metallurgy & Applied
Mechanics, thus trying for the Mining &
Metallurgy Associationship.

The Metallurgy implies 6 months Laboratory
work. The Mining not quite so long.

The Mining is very usefull, but I think
would not be much practical use without
a Knowledge of Engineering. It is a very
extensive Subject - & Work of 8 fellows
who have had to do with mines practically
have a great advantage. The Laboratory
work helps a good deal in making you
familiar with the Metallurgy, though
it is also a difficult Subject - & Master
thoroughly. The Laboratory work is very
useful & practical & I think would be

advisable to have in any case.

I should like to have a definite opinion on the subject, as I want to try to read up a little during the Summer.

Perhaps looking at the Prospectus & old examination papers might enable you to judge, of the relative merits of the Subjects. or propose some better course.

May 18.

I have reckoned up my bank book & find that I have still remaining to my credit £ 11, 10, 0.

Believe me

Your affectionate Son

George. McDawson