

Halifax William

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1873

Dear Father

The election being over I called on the Attorney General yesterday, & showed him Dr. Selwyn's letter offering to renounce the grant for the Topographical Survey. Mr. Holmes has accepted a Provisionary ship rank & will no longer be Prov. Sec<sup>y</sup> the Attorney General taking his place. It is still quite doubtful whether or not the Local Gov<sup>t</sup> will be decided in maintaining a majority, & I am not at all sure that the Gov<sup>t</sup> will consider itself responsible.

ought to make any arrangement before the House meets. I shall be able to learn at the beginning of next week.

My time here is too uncertain to make it worth while commencing anything of consequence. I may hear at any hour from Mr. Plunkett, and I know that his orders to proceed will be as urgent as he can make them. If I could know the date at which arrangements would be complete, it would be of very considerable advantage to me. I do not feel at all inclined to prepare a Report at present; as I do not consider that I could make a satisfactory one before understanding better the relative of the Granite to the other rocks, which I will

know after another seasons work. I have done a full  
years work; and I do not think that a Report would  
be of advantage to myself Professionally, but merely  
\* in the interest of the work I have been doing. At  
the end of another seasons work. a satisfactory one could  
be prepared; but this is lost if the work is not con-  
tinued. Another winter would not be so closely filled  
with the preparation of Maps & plans, and would be  
free from the difficulties that took up so much of this  
winter, as everything is now in running order. I think,  
however, a paper entitled "Rapid Methods in Topographical  
Surveying" would be of ~~use to~~ value, and I might get

something for it from the Institution of Civil Engineers.  
I ~~do~~ not have time for it, as all my own arrangements  
are complete with respect to the syndicate work, and the  
brass machinery is also ready.

Your affectionate son,

William.