



Ottawa.

Jan. 11. 98

My dear Walter,

Your letter of

Saturday night received
me yesterday. - Please
tell Father that I have finally
& carefully revised his
paper on Lepidophloeus &
sent it off to go to the
printer. It makes a very
good paper indeed, though
the subject is one with
which I have little familiarity.
About the biography - I do
not very well know what to say.

Rankine no doubt has a very good literary vein, but it seems rather a pity at the present to turn his attention from matters more immediately connected with his own future, for he should certainly take hold of something. Again I cannot help thinking that such changes as he might make, might only better Father if he should afterwards supervise the W.S. Should Father have strength to finish it himself it would be an auto biography. If written by another it would be in a somewhat different way. Would

it not do for the present to limit the
 revision to such notes & suggestions as
 would occur if you should read a few pages
 over with Father every day - put in one slip
 of paper or written in pencil on the margin.
 This occurs to me but I do not know what
 you will think of it. So far as I am concerned
 I shall be glad to do anything I can, but
 I certainly do not see at present how I could
 set myself down to a work of the kind, &
 any changes I might make would be open

to the same objection as above stated in regard
 to Rankine. From what I know of the work
 it would have the started & more
 attention given to facts the public would like
 to know & Father would probably think that
 this was leaving out all the important facts
 - which it might be to some extent. In any case
 the work of an editor would be much lightened
 by notes & references which ~~at~~ might occur in
 talks over the MS.

Whatever you decide on, however, I approve
 of.

Yours
 George