

Oct 21, 1870.

Aurora  
Sunspots  
Earthquake

Dear George

There was another great display of aurora on the 14<sup>th</sup>. It was cloudy weather on the following days so that I could not see if there was any connection between it & any sun-spot.

There was a slight shock of earth-quake yesterday. It came from the direction of Dulac.

Supposing the pressure of the air to be 15 lbs on the square inch, then a fall of one inch in the barometer would make a difference of half a pound on the square inch, or 896,000 tons on the square mile. The barometer stood at 28.94, so that that might have "set off" the

earthquake.

The spot I have been writing about ~~it~~ must have come round again now, but it's scarcely recognizable. If I take the right one for it, then the four spots have only separated a little further, & the group has a proper motion contrary to the motion of the sun; that is it has a retrograde motion.

You see I am badly off for something to write about

The Honour lectures <sup>in mathematics</sup> have begun now. We do no Euclid but only exercises & deductions. There are about nine of us at present but I don't know how long they may continue to attend.

Believe me your affectionate  
brother <sup>xx</sup> William.

P.S. The first meeting of the debating society is held tonight. Subject: Would it have been better for England if she had gained the battle of Hastings.