

P.P.S. The following P.S. is to
be read after you have
read the letter. Acc. 276
April 28. 1870.

P.S. Any time that you would like to
hear anything else from me than what
goes on in the sun, just let me
know. Solar spots, etc.

Dear George

We have now got
entirely through with our
examinations. I had a harder
time of it than most of the
rest, for after the ordinary
exams. were over I had to pass
the honour exams. in geometry
& algebra; and as there was no
honour examinations at Christmas
I had the whole year's work to
read up besides a lot of
things that we had to read up
for ourselves, for he (Dr Johnston)
said that we required no assistance
with them, & therefore gave us no
lectures on them. Since Xmas
we have gone through an octavo
book ~~on~~ on Geometry of 300 pages,
~~an~~ and a large amount of

algebra. The way we "went through" the geometry was this: he began at the middle and ~~read~~ ^{lectured} a third of the way to the end, and then ~~too lectured on~~ skipped over about 50 ps. & then lectured on the last 50 ps.: and then we had "gone through the book" & were liable for anything that was in it.

But these are unpleasant recollections. They are all over now; and they are not quite so cruel to us in one way as they are to you. For we passed our last honour examination yesterday and all the results are to be up ~~tomorrow~~ tomorrow. Wasn't this a joke. Eight of us attended the lectures in honours, and only I and one other (McLeod), went up to the exam.

On The ~~day before yesterday~~ 25th a large spot split up. When it first came round, it was nearly circular; then ~~it became~~ a long

"arm, or projection grew out of it,
then it became like a carrot
with the leaves on, & then it
split up. All these rapid changes
occurred within the course of a week.



I give these outlines from memory,
but I think they represent the general
appearance of the phenomenon. The
nights of the 25th & 26th were
fine ^{but} ~~and~~ no aurora appeared.

On the 27th it was cloudy, but
the whole sky appeared to be lit
up as if aurora was playing
in the higher regions of the atmos=
phere. This is ~~a sort~~ not very
reliable evidence for the connection
of these two sets of phenomena,

), but still it goes so far.
By the way, did you see in
"Nature" an article by someone
~~it~~ at Cape Colony saying that
the curves of mean temperature
as observed there, were remarkably

coincident with the curves showing
the maxima & minima of the
solar spots? (By "curves of
mean temperature" I don't mean
the isothermal lines!) This
is very remarkable, especially
when there exists such a close
connection between heat &
electricity.

The other day I went down
to the river, and found that
six ships were in port, three
of which were Lakes Erie Michigan
& ~~Ontario~~ Superior. Yesterday morning
at 5 we were woken up by hearing
the report of a gun, & afterwards
learnt that it was on account
of the first of Allen's Steamships
coming up the river. The annual
examination at Pt. aux Trembles
took place ~~to~~ yesterday but no
steamer was hired on account of
the lowness of the water preventing
the safe landing of passengers there.
I remain yours affect. brother William