

Dear  
a friend

36 Clarendon Street.

Aug: 5<sup>th</sup>  
— 1871

My dear Dawson,

Many thanks for your letter: it was really quite a comfort to me, for here I am in this dismal old metropolis (rendered a hundred times more wretched by rain every alternate day) with my Father & Mother, two out of my three brothers, and all my friends but one (who lives at Wandsworth) out of town! Don't you envy me?

I am heartily glad to hear you are enjoying yourself so much, what a "howling cheer" (excuse slang) you will be when you come back in all that relates to Geology, Physical Geography &c. Have you been fortunate enough to come

across any of the rare fossils?

I suppose you heard Sir W. Thompson's address. I am anticipating the pleasure of reading it, but have not done so yet being fully occupied in the illicit pleasure of "Vanity Fair". Have you read that marvellous satire? It is really astonishing how a man can write a book containing only two decent characters, and one of those a mess!

Sir Rod. graciously pleased to be well enough at the right moment to do the necessary signing, so I have got my Associate's certificate, & six pounds worth of my books, consisting of Quain, Gray, Siebenauer, Hermann (Physiology), Deschanel (Physics) Balfour Stewart, Ellis (Anatomy) & the "Origin of Species". I am thinking of making up the list with a Physical Atlas, Ramsay's Geological map

of books, & then if there's any money left, either by the way  
He was certain of just what do you recommend as  
the best book for a new amateur?

I want to see Roman the other day. It was stopped  
for a short time in London in his way to Scotland  
when he writes to you his two or three weeks holiday.

Have you made out a list of your books yet?

You will have quite a small library. I think him of next

I wrote to Miss Thackeray told me in a letter these

violently. He ~~was~~ actually told me in a letter these  
for a fortnight before the exam. He has been used to  
and before daylight! I heard words was that he  
didn't do better. If you see him tell him I hope

he won't offend anything. I have been very busy  
hoping others from you again too. I am very busy

