

J. J. Parker

Brenham Colleg.

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My dear Dawson,

You will certainly have concluded by this time that I have lost what little conscience I ever possessed, since I have neglected to write to you for so long. Pray excuse me on the ground that I have really been fearfully busy, have scarcely had 5 minutes to call my own, in fact. Let me tell you a little about my duties &c. & then you will, I am sure

Sympathetic with & forgive me. First  
of all the [redacted] class (French  
or English) 7.30 to 8. Then  
I have Chem [redacted] 9-10 &  
French from 10-11: after this I  
am lucky enough to be let  
off till 2.30, for which time there  
are classes till 5, & then again  
on Mondays & Thursdays from 6 to  
7.45. On Wednesdays & Saturdays  
there is no work after 12.15. On  
Thursday at 7 I have to give  
a lecture to the whole school! as  
I am taking Zoology, bringing in  
various little bits of Zoology, such  
as the Chalk cliffs under the  
Protogon, & the Coral reef under  
the Actinogon etc.

You should see my laboratory.

When first I came all the reagents  
were in fearful disorder, & the only  
place for the boys to work at was  
an old oak table, and while  
they had to sit on forms, closely  
packed together! Imagine even  
old Val. teaching Practical  
Chem. under such circumstances!

However, I've persuaded Mr. High  
to have two deal benches put  
up, each divided into three <sup>places,</sup>  
so that now 6 (or on an  
emergency 8) boys can work  
very comfortably. My senior boy  
& I have also been putting the  
reagents into something like decent  
order, & putting numbers on the  
bottles containing substances for  
testing: before they were all  
named, & as nearly every bottle  
is different from its fellows it

was easy enough for any sheep boy  
to see what outstare was given  
him. However this wasn't of so  
much consequence: there is only one boy  
doing compounds: I am putting all  
the others through the reaction for bases.

I am also teaching Physiology to  
nearly the whole school in 4 separate  
classes, for the two senior of which  
I have prevailed on Mr. Haigh to get  
Huxley's "Lessons".

The worst part of it is the "duty".  
Every master is "on duty" (alternately  
in- & out-door) every other day, &  
I assure you it's a horrid bore.

Pray write soon & tell me how  
the R. S. M. is getting on: who is  
talked of as poor old Sir Rod's  
successor: how all the men are:  
what Huxley is doing in his lectures  
&c. &c. Any news will be acceptable  
for I hear nothing here.  
Remember me to Rutherford, Newton,  
Harold, Huxley & anybody else you  
may happen to see -  
Ever yours very truly  
T. J. Parker.