

36, Abington Street  
 London. S.W.  
 May 10<sup>th</sup> 1873.

My dear Dawson,

Your appointment seems to be  
 a first rate affair, just the thing you need  
 like & and I am heartily glad you have it.  
 Only mind you don't get drowned or starved  
 to death, or come to any other equally cheap  
 end like the poor Indians one reads about  
 in the "North West passage of Land" & the  
 exciting books of travel. Is the place you  
 are going to all civilized, or are you  
 to be a pioneer? As to your salary, it  
 would like fabulous wealth to me with my  
 small pittance. I only wish some admirable  
 transatlantic Missions would offer me something  
 of the sort - I should be most happy to start  
 next week. Unfortunately, though, I should have  
 to give a new set of brains for anything of that

not to happen, & that would be rather a  
difficult matter. Then again all the good  
buths seem to fall to the lot of the Chemists,  
metallurgists & geologists - I haven't heard of  
a single good Colonial appointment for Biology.  
I suppose Howland & Dillon are at the top  
of the tree among us R.S.M. men as far  
as income is concerned: they have both gone  
to Japan in different branches of the mine  
there: the former gets £2000 & the latter £1000  
to begin with! - Try the way you will  
have started for you long journey long before this  
gets to Canada, but I suppose it will be finished  
- unless indeed there are no posts - the Packets.

I am perfectly satisfied with my Hart-  
nack, & for your sake wish you had bought  
one instead of Swifts. It is nothing like  
light as an English microscope & can therefore be  
used with perfect ease without bending the tube.  
The workmanship & the lens are capital and  
the whole affair better worth its price (£7.10)

than any microscope I ever saw. The highest  
power (No. 7) magnifies 300 Diam. with  
the No. 3. & 470 with the No. 4 eye-piece.  
The low power 67 with No. 5, & 100 with No. 4.  
If there happens to be such a thing as a  
Church where you are fair, have special thanks  
going off up on the earliest opportunity  
for the providential circumstance that you  
escaped getting a microscope at Baker. Any  
one using the microscope he supplied us with  
at fair, who doesn't curse & swear freely  
may be looked upon as a miracle of patience.  
We now have some he has made for us  
on Hantuschi's model - & to all outward appear-  
ance they are as good as H's, but you may judge  
of their efficiency when I tell you that out  
of the 20 ~~that~~ we had, about 15 were found  
on examination to be defective in some way.  
Several had no "catch" to the minute adjustment  
so that when worked too high, the whole tube  
of the microscope jumped up and dashed the

unfortunate oblique & severe blow in the eye!  
Just imagine Huxley's wrath when he saw  
them.

You mustn't take any notice of Miller's  
not writing - "it's a sort of way he has". I  
haven't heard anything of him for about 2 months  
although he knows I am very anxious to know  
what he's doing. He hasn't got his Survey  
Appointment yet, for the simple reason that  
there has been no Examination & consequently  
no appointment since you were in London. Rayney  
& the Government had a fight about the appointment  
of Assistant Surgeons - Rayney wanted to choose  
them himself but the Government will have the thing  
put up for competition Examination & give the  
posts to the men who show the greatest knowledge  
of English History & elementary mathematics.  
Last time I saw Miller he said he was  
going on the 1st of April to join a Survey party  
in district work, just as you did that time at  
the Lakes, but I have heard nothing of him  
since & don't know where to write.

My Father & I delight at the idea of  
getting Bania. He has just had a great  
wind fall in the shape of a present of £100  
from the Master of the Astor Company  
(who is giving it only as a semi-jocular suggestion  
of Haggling the astronomer, who told him that  
some of the money he had made by his efforts  
to be appropriated to studying the scientific!)  
So he is now willing to go to any <sup>number</sup> ~~expense~~  
to get your Shadon, Chinceres, Javoids & c.

We have had a great lot of students  
altogether, at the <sup>practical</sup> Biology class. Had a  
dozen of these men Science teachers of the most  
advanced description, 3 of whom, after 5-  
months work, could not show a decent specimen  
of striped muscular film at the practical exam!  
There are, however, some 4 or 5 decent men  
who were like oases in the desert of my rounds.  
Two of them I think you knew at Jermyn Street  
- Turner & Decherville.

I am at present engaged in cataloguing  
the specimens & directing for my own  
information, in white letters, above. I don't  
make so much progress as I should like,  
having no one to teach me. Of course I get  
an occasional flying visit from Huxley,  
but he's far too busy to help me much.

Let me have another letter as soon as  
possible to say how you get on in your  
new mode of life, & when you're a Professor  
& want a "hardy young man" to cut up  
frogs & rabbits & make himself generally  
useful - "Remember me, remember me, I  
pitioulsly pray of thee" -

Ever your most truly  
T. J. Parker