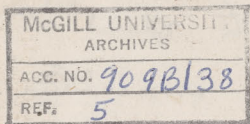


Parker  
March 75.

36, Fernlea Road,

Batham, London S.W.



March 21<sup>st</sup> 1875.

My dear Dawson,

Thank you very much for  
~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> good wishes contained in your  
last letter, as well as for all  
the interesting news in the last  
but one, which I have not yet  
answered. If I ~~had~~ were not now  
a dignified British householder,  
(and alas! British tax-payer) I  
should look upon all your journeying  
with the greatest possible envy. As  
it is, if I should ever be fortunate

to save £100 or so, one of my  
first ideas will be to spend it  
in going on the spree somewhere -  
not I certainly to such romantic  
spots as you have been visiting,  
but <sup>to</sup> the milder & more prosaic  
regions of Germany, Italy or Switzerland.  
I know that is tolerably certain not  
to be for a great many years yet -  
fortunately, when the time does come,  
I am blessed with a wife who is  
as anxious to see a little of what  
lies outside England as I am, but  
at present, poverty compels us, however  
unwillingly, to be content with a  
stay-at-home life, and to look with

mingled envy & admiration on even  
the ordinary English tourist.

Notwithstanding generally of this  
sort, I consider myself very much  
in ~~lot~~ luck in a variety of ways.  
My wife keeps me with my German,  
runs parallel with me in general  
reading, ~~reads~~ plays Muelhausen &  
Bouffon when I am tired, &  
keeps the accounts for the whole household.

Do you happen to remember Balham  
at all? It is the next suburb to  
Wandsworth, and a capital neighbourhood  
for frogs & bugs of all description.

Milner is now at Darlington  
doing survey work: he has not been  
in town since last May, & seems to

have no idea when he will revisit  
the classic precincts of Jernyn Street.

Have you seen Huxley's new  
"Classification" in the "Quarterly Microscopical"  
of June. It is largely based on Stöckel's  
nomenclature, many of whose terms he adopts,  
such as dividing all animals primarily  
into Protozoa (which show no distinction  
into cells) or Metazoa (which are cellular).  
If one may venture an opinion, I think  
it will hold very well - the histological  
difference between a healthy Paramecium  
or a larval Trematode. Don't seem to  
me to be fundamental as to warrant  
the separation of the latter from the Infusoria  
or their union with Vertebrates. What  
do you think? T. H. H. has I've  
rather a brilliant piece of ~~work~~ interpretation

lately, with regard to Amphioxus -  
Instead of its being hairless & skull-less,  
he makes it out as having a  
hair, <sup>occupying</sup> about  $\frac{1}{3}$  the ~~length~~ length  
of its spinal cord, and a skull  
made up of 14 undifferentiated somatomes.  
Of course a great many people are  
accusing him of making friends with  
his old enemy the Vertebral Theory,  
but really it is nothing of the sort:  
in his Croonian lecture many years  
ago, he acknowledged that a  
number of Verbbra might be compressed  
into the investing mass, and the  
whole of this "skull" of Amphioxus  
is post-pituitary -

Our Laboratory at Kensington  
is gradually improving. We are slowly  
getting permanent accommodation for  
the specimens, to which I am now  
engaged in adding a series of dissections,  
and are going to have a reference  
library & an aquarium. The  
Lab. is now being used for ~~our~~  
Botanical class, conducted by  
Thimelton Dyer, in which students  
actually make out for themselves  
such things as the development of  
Cryptogams, the formation of Ascospores  
in Torula, pollen tubes, &c. &c. Think  
what sensations of Delight it would  
have raised in our unappreciated

hearts to have actually seen such  
things, in '70!

Carpenter has taken his  
degree - a first class in honours,  
at Cambridge, and has gone to  
Wurzberg to study under Semper,  
whose name will always be  
associated in my mind with that  
wretched beast Synapta, with  
regard to which our minds were  
so greatly exercised at the latter  
part of Huxley's lectures 4 years ago.

I have not heard yet who is  
to write ~~the~~ Sir Charles's life -  
I suppose it is sure to be done, & can  
my hope it will be entrusted to someone  
who will do it justice. I met with

my wife to hear Dean Stanley's  
funeral sermon at the Abbey: a  
first sign of the times, wasn't it, for  
a dignitary of the Church of England  
to preach a eulogistic sermon on  
an "infidel" protestant! By the by I  
heard something to boot even that  
some months ago - namely a sermon  
of Stephen Brooke, one of the Queen's  
chaplains, defending most eloquently  
Tyndall's Belfast address!

I hope your Columbian  
expedition will be as pleasant &  
profitable as the last - Have you published  
any papers about your work yet? If so  
I hope you will be able to spare me a  
copy: With my kindest regards from my  
wife & myself I am your most truly  
T. J. Parker