

Acc. 976
36. Fernlea Road.

Batham.
London, S.W.

Oct: 10th 1875.

My Dear Dawson,

I should have written before
to thank you for being so good as
to send me a copy of your *Stupidas*
Report - for which I am really
very grateful, & which has made
me think more of you than ever.
I need hardly say that I haven't
yet read it through, but I have
seen enough to understand what
^{an} immense ~~great~~ amount of work
it must have given you ⁱⁿ getting
up a publication of the kind so very
thorough. It is a great pity that
the Government has not been (as you said)

in your last) more liberal with the Coin-
mon plates, with better engraving & printing
would have been a decided improvement.
It seems to me that they have done their best
to spoil your drawings - I certainly remember
your artistic efforts as being vastly superior
to these plates, and it always goes to my
heart to have good original drawings
spoil'd in the publishing.

I only wish I had anything of my
own to send you in return for your report,
but alas, there is nothing - I have been
occupied ever since Huxley's class was
over (the beginning of March) in making
a series of dissections of T.H.H.'s favorite
beasts (Frog, Skate, Pigeon &c) for the
Laboratory, & have thoroughly enjoyed the
work - it has been capital practice in many
ways, ^{tricks the "pickles"} and I have got a series of correct
drawings of the animals in question which
will be of great use in teaching &c. Thus I
have a man assisting me, who besides

Doing some of the coarse dissections, has
encouraged a lot of my drawings as large
water-colour wall diagrams, which have
been framed (!) at the expense of H. M. Govern-
ment, and now decorate the walls of
the Laboratory. There has been some
talk of having them published, as they are
about the only things of the kind, but there
is no knowing whether that will ever
take place.

I haven't heard from Miller for some
time, but I believe he is still at Darlington
on the Survey - he has been away for
London for eight months! and I
haven't a notion when he intends to return
once more to civilization & I imagine that

Probably you have seen for the papers
that Carpenter went as assistant-
naturalist on the "Valron" provision
ship, with the Arctic Expedition as far
as Disc. He ~~is~~^{is} going to Würzburg

now to study Invertebrate Histology &
Development under Semper, and then
intends to proceed to the Zoological Station
at Naples to work at Crinoids. By the
by they are getting a capital Biological
School at Cambridge now under the
auspices of Michael Foster - they have
already two or three first rate men. Have
you seen F. M. Balfour's papers in the
Q. J. M. S.? They place him in the first
rank as an embryologist, and I think
he can't be more than 23 or 24.

My Father is still pecking away at
the Australian Skull, from which he &
Huxley have lately made out great things,
As to my friends the Trilobula, pterygo-
palatine, investing mass &c. &c.

Let me hear from you again before
long - I shall be anxious to hear what your
next man is. Do you still intend hold to
British Columbia?

With kind regards from my wife, and again
congratulating you on the Report I am your most truly
7.7. Parker