BLACKER

Vienna February 6th 1870.

My dear Friend!

I have much to thank you for your kind letter of 2d: 2. last month & must beg earnestly to be excused for having so long retarded my answering it. The black margin around it gave me bad apprehension of a loss inflicted to you; the contents, however, did - thank to God - not confirm it & I hope, Mrs Jones has, at this moment, fully recovered her health and winter has not impaired her's or yours & nor your lovely children's. After having been uncommonly mild here (so that ice became scarce) our winter became suddenly severe at the end of last month (my thermometer fell to 8, 11, & even 12° R: under zero; in the Botanical Garden of Schönbrunn, about 2 Engl: miles W: of Vienna, it marked 17° R: under 0 on 28. January morning). Since the 2d this month, the cold relented somewhat (minima, 4, 5, 7, 10° R under 0) & we hoped to have the worst of it behind us, when to-day at about midnight, the cold suddenly reached - 12° and only relented to - 9½ in the course of the day. We have now (8½ p: m:) again - 12°. We all resent it in our health; and, indeed, physical & mental life begins to fall into a kind of torpor; it is rather an enviable faculty, some animals possess, to sleep away this dreary period of the year.

The last separate print I have received from London, is that of our friend Haidinger's "Remarks on the Luminous & Phaenomena attending the fall of Meteorites (Philos: Mag: for April 1869), nor did I receive since Prof: J. Rep: Jones Esq: &

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any of the communications I took the liberty of transmitting to you under October q.to last year. Your pamphlets too, have not come in to my hands since a some months, to my great regret, as you may easily imagine. I intend to make a list of those at present in my possession, and to send it to you, with the — perhaps very indiscreet — request, to complete their series with those still wanting in my collection.

Mr. Dallas continues to transmit to me very regularly the "Proceedings" of the Geol: Society and to acknowledge the receipt of my communications by very amiable letters.

I have sent some abstracts to a new London scientific Journal: "Nature", & the Editor had the politeness to send me 2 or 3 numbers of it, the only ones I ever have seen since. Could you inform me what a sort of Periodical it is & what amount of credit it enjoys in your scientific spheres? What you tell me about the restrictions intended to the scientific education of Cadets & Officers, surprises me to the highest degree. I never thought that in our times, such a Barbarism & Anachronism could take place. It is indeed an "Ana, chronism" and, what is still worse, an inconsequence, in a moment "when a Comitee of the first men of Science is deliberating on L.C: Strange's motion about ensuring the progress of Natural Science by governmental cooperation, a motion, which probably may become an object of Parliamentary discussion & enquiry. I hope & wish for the honour of British Science and for your own personal interest, that such an absurd proposal may meet well-deserved indignant rejection.

I suppose, Prof: Bewsh has sent you a copy of his "Fossil Echinoderma & Bryozoa from the Tert: beds of Crosara", published last month at our Academy's expenses.

Countess' Marschall's fowl & pets, & my daughter's archi- pet yonies have not suffered from the cold. The chief pet is now a specimen of Zeteneus vulgaris — the same species, I think, so well characterized in Mr. Bates's "Naturalist on the Amazon", under the vulgar name of "Japim", — a paragon of tameness and funny impudence, just like our Starling; nor must I omit a fine specimen of Larmyrostornis rufiventris, a birth-day present from the Countess to me, singing very agreeably & very tame too.

Do you see sometimes Mr. Jenkins, the former Assistant-Secretary of the Geol: Society? if this is the case, pray, offer him my best compliments, as well as to Mrs. Jones & to all, who condescend to remember me in kindness.

Has any of your children a taste for one or the other branch of Natural Science?

Believe me

My dear friend

for ever Yours most truly

Count Marschall

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