

London

21 April 1894

Most noble Professor,

Your kind letter fell upon us like the gentle rain from heaven, & filled us with a blessing which is the portion of its writer also. But, like the practical-minded Thomas, we hold our full belief in reserve until full confirmation, & thereby enjoy the further blessedness of the man that expecteth nothing. Whether the thing comes off or not, however, your kindly interest is the same, & we shall not forget it. I speak for the whole tribe.

I shall be absent from Melbourne during May, attending our General Conference in Adelaide, but after that month I can go to Ballarat at any time. There is nothing in my course to which a whole boarding school of girls might not be introduced without danger; but I will look carefully again at all the thin ice, & see if I cannot go round it.

I have received from Oxford

P.S. I wish I could draw with a few more young men
to go with you to the W. Donner Range. I should have
been of great service as the Liberator of the party - a
better of water & a dinner of water - if there were any to
draw. But in mind the River is "Lakes of any"
if may be water.

15
an invitation, signed by the
Vice Chancellor, the Mayor, & the
three local Secretaries, to attend
the meeting of the British Association
in August as their guest; & forthwith
I entered with full sympathy into
poor old Moses' feelings when he
looked upon the good land from
the mountain top. But the
invitation is a great honour; & after
all, my not being able to go will
leave the folk at home in their
delusion that I am somebody, which
my presence would probably dispel.
All I have been able to do seems to
me so ridiculously small & im-
perfect, that an honour such
as this makes me feel like a humbug.

With many thanks,

Yours most sincerely,
James Fison.

W. Baldwin Spencer Esq