The Laboratory
Citadel Hill
Plymouth

Jan 8, 89

My dear Spencer,

It is a pleasure that I have to write to you now often have I wanted to but other correspondence has been so heavy that I have put it off and put off till I was ashamed. How to go straight to your letter. Of course I am only too pleased to do anything that I can for you. You must not think of indecency or anything of that sort.

But I am very sorry that you have such a craving home — partly no doubt because
from a sort of vested interest in the chair itself when it became really vacant determined to stand for the Deputyship besides his Dickson the then occupant, Doyle Jackson & Beddard but in how it seemed to me & to many others that the election board had one of two courses before them, either to select the best man they could get among the candidates which was of course doubtless or to maintain the status quo by selecting Dickson. They did neither the one thing nor the other but elected Jackson, & it is my belief that they meant to signify their future choice in electing him. If so it is most unfortunate such as I like & respect Jackson and value his help & friendship I don't honestly consider him the best man for the Linacre Professors
He has a damping influence on young students and eminence, as he is his best critic is somewhat oppressive. The concern whilst he lacks the originality of freshness of thought which stimulates enthusiasm.

However the matter rests where it is. Lancaster is still at University College, there is no vacancy at present.

At the end of the year, Morley may he well enough resign and say E.R.I. will go in for the chair. He may fit it then, and there will be a grand snuffling of the crowds.

I do not think that Julius Hare will stand for the Jebbell Professorship, it is ill paid compared with Owens College and I would advise you to put up for the Jebbell Professorship. Hicken, Doyle, Beddard & Weldon will all stand for it, the contest will be keen. I will keep your letter by me, & will
about these things by research. They cut sections and think that all is well.

But certain Germans, Peters, Körnig, and Penciner, have been doing splendid work. Weldon has called the Deutsche Kommission für Untersuchung der Deutschen Meere von Kiel, and they have been doing splendid work. Weldon is making progress in his work but it is slow. Nobody reads their work but it is splendid. Weldon is making progress in it.

A new developmental law is the law of progressive larval variation parallel with adult variation. Very striking. In measuring 500 shrimps in 10 feet, I am trying to quantitatively estimate the pelagic fauna of the Channel. Parkinson measured 10,000,000,000,000. 1,000,000,000,000, 1,000,000,000,000, 1,000,000,000,000. We are not so mad as we sound.

Plymouth is an excellent place save for its inhabitants who are about to go. London is an excellent place save for its inhabitants who are about to go a year with your Colonals. But the laboratory is really splendid. I only wish it did not blow S.W. so often.
I liked your paper on earthworms and geology very much, but I wished to see Colonial Lithography. You could have run those plates yourself. It is very good of you to think of me in the way of corals & shells when you must have so much to do.

Perhaps you know that I possess a very fat sombon on July 15th. I'm not sure how it got its name. My wife was very ill after it was done, but she is now nearly quite strong again.

Hoping you and yours are well, I wish you all happiness. Respecting the new year, I am

Ever yours,

[Signature]