ELLESMERE HOUSE,
WITHINGTON.

Dec 25, 1900

My dear Spencer,

I was very glad to hear from you again the better day I to know that all is well with you. I hope you will have a good time in the wilds of the north with your colleague Gillen. I envy you the grand opportunities you set of doing field work.
It seems almost impossible for us in Manchester to get away for more than the customary 2 months in the summer. Our University machinery is so complicated that it would be almost impossible for a temporary deputy to do the necessary work. However, I am hoping some day when my children are a little older to get leave of absence for a summer. At present I am very busy indeed.

Having undertaken to write the article on Ciliata in Necton for Manchester Zoology before the end of March I have got some interesting new results on Tentaculata, which I shall include in it. I want to separate these two groups from the other Protozoa under the name Acrotricha as they have in all cases two kinds of nuclei with different functions. No other cell nor animal in the A.K. exhibit such a phenomenon.

These two groups too are the only ones that exhibit cilia and they ought to be widely...
separated from the Hagellata
which are much more
primitive. I am also at
work on Alycyonaria being
another large consignment
including several very interesting
forms from the Cape waters
and elsewhere. I shall send
you in a few days my
first paper on the Cape
Alycyonarians.
We are getting on pretty well
in the matter of research
but we are sadly in want
of some fellowship in place
of the old Berkeley fellowship
which have ceased to exist.
There is absolutely no
encouragement now for a man to stop a year to do research with us, the poor men have no prospect of the rich men go to Cambridge or Plymouth to carry on these investigations. However Gamble is doing brilliantly. His last paper with Keeble on Colour change in Nippotite is regarded as one of the finest things of recent years. Have you read it?

Ashworth has gone as a junior demonstrator to Ewart at Edinburgh, so giving
them various notions than about invertibrates. I have got in his place a young
Cambridge man named Laidlaw who was on the Skeat expedition in the Bay
peninsula who got extensive & peculiar knowledge of land mollusks & other things
he promises well. Mr. Pratt is also working in the Rechen lab & on some Falkland
island marine worms to test the bipolar theory.
I know really very little of the young or in other labs
as I have not been South since the summer & very few people come north at this
time of year. I am going up to London in a few days however to have a chat with
Manchester about various things. I wonder when
Gregory's place at the British Museum is going to be filled up. It is still vacant.
By the way if you see Gregory give him my kind regards & thanks for the
papers he sent to me the other day. If there are any papers of ours he would
like to have I will send him copies of those we
have while in stock.
Thanks for sending me "Gradus." It has not come yet, but I expect it in due course. I am glad to hear that Roth has got a post that suits him. I should like to see him again.

Talking about the photo of old Oxford day. I heard of Sheard the other day. He is quite flourishing in a good practice. C.E. Bourne is a Colonel in Militia now. He has, so I heard, gone to S. Africa with his regiment. He has been on military duty now some 15 months. His zoological tutorial work has for the time come to a full stop.
I do not know exactly what Fowler is doing now. He left University College when Minchin was promoted over his head. He is living at Richmond. He does not seem to write much nor put in an appearance at the Societies nor often write. Hoping to hear soon of some success in your expedition. I am

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]