



Coll. Con.

Aug 27. 83

Dear Howard

I am two letters
in your debt this time : the
second was very welcome but
kindly excuse my writing more
than once as I have been very
busy. I have had a slight
exam. - the first of my final ones
in Physics : they make us
take exams. in most subjects before
we can get to the real one for which
we are working : it was not a very

important one + I really did very
badly principally though not having
worked for it. I hope to scrape
through as it is rather bad for a
secular to miss exams. but I certainly
shant of they were bad enough as I

simply & very profitably. made wild
shots at questions I knew nothing
about + of course was hopelessly + in
one or two cases rather comically out of
It: they will probably play with me
in my viva. One of the honors of an
Oxford Exam. is that you know there is
a viva in which you can most
delightfully be made a fool of - in public

nevertheless: I am glad
you so much enjoyed your trip it
must have been very jolly indeed:
I wished yesterday I could have had
Ceil + you in when a friend of
mine who is in for Leeds. recounted
his experiences of the Trinity paper:
it was killing: we knew he was
a safe plough as he is utterly
ignorant of matters Theological: they
asked him who were Hoë + Caiaphas
the former he imagined was "the
woman who had an issue of blood
twelve years" the latter was one who
"lied into the Lord + was carried out
dead"! I fancy there are some

makes up or at all events he did
not write this down though he certainly
thought they were right.

He did however tell them that Mark
was the one who fled away after losing
his garment on the night of the betrayal
because he said all the other evangelists
save Mark mentioned it the latter being
too modest!

He also informed
the examiners that "throughout the
Gospel of St. Luke might be traced the
masterly hand of St. Peter": he got
hopelessly into a muddle between prayer
& almsgiving & after talking of doing the
latter in secret said "our Lord also
left us an example of this always
returning into his closet when he was
giving alms". He really sent



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these things in - I am afraid
 from many other terrible "howlers"
 he made that the examiners will
 think he was fooling them. With
 regard to the context of "Physician heal
 thyself" he said "such were the ~~hard~~
 taunts of the jibing mob addressed
 to the Christ on the cross". There
 were lots of other mistakes but I
 can't tell you none except this one
 he was asked what he knew of Jonas
 + his answer was "Jonas was the
 father of Simon Peter of him it was
 said as Jonas was in the belly of
 the whale three days + three nights so etc!"
 He has such a comical way of

telling things that you would
almost have died with laughing: they
are perhaps rather poor to repeat: I
am not quite sure about the first
two in fact I feel certain he did not
send them in though it was rather a
chance he did not as he had no idea
how wrong they were.

To change the subject we have
been enjoying a most glorious day
though I have been in most of the
time making arrangements for our
coursazuric on Friday: we shall
have most of the great guns of
Oxford there & I think it will be a

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success: I am rather coming in
for autographs as replies to
invitations all come to me being
see. It gives me plenty to do &
I shall be hard at it till Friday
evening & then if our Docs be
sensible it will be good to go to
another term. It does help
time to fly when the year is so
divided up as ours is.

I don't quite understand what
you mean about tennis but perhaps
you can explain when we meet: I
shall be very glad to have a chat
concerning things in general & one

in particular : since you don't want
me to I won't say anything at all
yet & perhaps it is better not as
things are rather unsettled.

It is 9.30 so I must stop. Will
you please tell Emily I will write
here before we meet which will be
I hope next Saturday. I got
her short note with yours.

Goodbye till we meet which will
be when? Perhaps we can
make some arrangement.

Your friend
B.

I don't quite know when I shall be at
Disley but Lillie will be with us next week
end.