

29 Nov. 85. (76)
5 Thurs. Ten.

Dear Howard

I fear you in
common with many others will
be feeling rather depressed at
the Manchester results, certainly
they were dreadful: I had
expected 4 to 2 but 5 to 1 seemed
infinitely worse.

We have the results telegraphed of
course to the Union + when late
at night the Manchester polls came in

one after another there was a
scene of the wildest excitement: our
small liberal party here were rather
depressed: of course as regards
numbers the conservatives have it all
their own way + are highly elated:

I think there is little doubt now
(even though the central news this
aft. gives the result as Lib. 178. Conserv.
153) that the Tories must yield
in power.

Personally I shall not very much
object to it: they will put India
in a proper state + get something

life order in our foreign affairs +
then quickly disappear at the
next general in two or three years
time when we shall have a
strong liberal (possibly radical) majority
which means good home policy +
a ruddle abroad 5 years more +
another Tory government will be in +
the cycle will start again.

It will be a great relief to have
the elections all over: hoping that
the results are coming in at the
Union I can't possibly stay in my
room + read quietly so at 11 I
generally adjourn + come in about

1 or perhaps later. It is most
convenient to have all the telegrams
so close at hand.

Just this last day or two I have
heard news of interest to myself but
it is not published yet so please
keep it quite quiet (I don't intend
to tell my people at all). It is
simply that Lincoln have decided to
give a biology fellowship: unfortunately
as far as I am concerned it goes to
Spain. + being the second one which
has been awarded in biology in 25 years
goodness knows who will be in for
it: fortunately few of our men have

2)

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gone on with science & done
any original work so this will be
in my favour as papers may
be sent in. However even here

I am handicapped as my teaching
occupies all my time & prevents my
doing any original work now so I shall
only have 3 short papers to show.

Ray Lankester is examining - he is asked
as a very keen examiner but he is
very friendly to me always.

Another exam. is enough to make
me mad & especially me on which
so much hangs: I can't even

read it + don't feel at all
 fit for me as the term is hard
 work. It comes in I believe
 just after the term so I shant
 get down probably till it was over.
 The result is going to be out Jan. 8
 Monday I have as
 yet only heard the news privately +
 though I have a good chance of it,
 don't intend to tell people more than
 can be helped as if leaked I should
 much prefer them to know nothing about
 it. You will understand.

I can't help hoping he will choose the latter as
 we should in some ways be awkwardly placed.
 Have you any idea what Mr. Robertson thinks on
 this matter. It is long since I wrote to him +
 of course heard from him but if he hears all I can't
 help thinking he would think with us.
 I am sorry to see the result of Altrincham.

W.R.S.

Today (Monday) I am going up as Monday's guest (the man he had just invited
 has fallen ill suddenly - luckily for me - so he has just asked me to take his place) to the Royal
 Society dinner in Willis' rooms. Hayley makes his retiring speech + Stokes (the new President) his
 inaugural one.