

Pitt Rivers Museum ms collections
Spencer papers Box 3 Goulty

Goulty 1 [*letter written in pencil*]

Oxford

Oct 17 '80

My dear Howard,

Thank you for your note which it was very good of you to write whilst so busy. I do pity you in your grind, as I well know from gainfull [*sic*] experience what it means in fact I am now undergoing the same process with the prospect of a classical exam. before me & a subsequent hasty retreat to Manchester where I expect to spend another year in the bosom of my family.

I never before felt so unfortunate or so quite at sea in an Exam. to begin with the Physics paper were horribly mathematical & you know what that means & then instead of biology we are having physiology in wh. to put it in a mild kind of way my knowledge is not very vast as I have never given any time to the subject & only know something indirectly through zoology. However I had it out with the Examiner afterwards when he comforted me by saying that we were going to have a paper on physiology on Monday (the other had been practical) but I have reason to think that he saw it was carrying things a little to [*sic*] far. I told him that I had come prepared to dissect creatures & he asked me if I should like him to give me some dissection a proposal to wh. I readily assented. I also took occasion to inform him what I had done at London in biology, altogether we had a very pleasant but to me a scarcely satisfactory interview.

So much for Exams. May you meet with much more success in a week from now than I am doing. May you meet with much more success in a week from now than I am doing.

I am awfully sorry about poor Leonard there were 68 in for his schol.! Competition up here runs rather keen. Thank you for your card about the sports. I was very glad to get it & to hear that Rivie had got a medal. I was afraid it would knock him up but hope he is getting all right again now.

This is such a grand place I wish you could only come up here & we could take our degree together. It will be a great contrast to our year at Owens whenever I come up here & the same also if I go back to the College again.

I shall see you on Wednesday evening. Dont make yourself ill with work. Love from Baldwin.

Goulty 2

Dovedale House

Matlock Bath.

Aug 28.81

Dear Howard,

You will see by the heading of this epistle that I am not where I ought to was [*sic*] – in Scotland.

Mother was not well when I ought to have started & wanted me to stay a little longer so much that I begged off at the last moment. I wanted to know if it would be inconvenient for me to come a day or two earlier that [*sic*] the 1st of Sept: I want all the time for my work at home that I can possibly get before going up & so wanted to know, now that I have not gone to Scotland if I might come to you Tuesday instead of Thursday. If so could you please drop me a card by return of post. Excuse my troubling you so much only not going to Scotland has altered my plans & I thought that if it would be no inconvenience to you I should be glad to come a day or two earlier. Please dont hesitate to say “no” if it be in the least inconvenient.

In haste yr Friend

Baldwin.

I see there is a train at 4.50 & I will come by that if it will do

Goulty 3

Whalley Range

Sept. 8. 81

My dear Howard,

I got home all right yesterday & am now endeavouring to set down to work which is by no means the easiest thing in the world to do after the enjoyment of Alderley though for many

things I feel glad to be back at it once more.

I have enjoyed my week with you more than I can say & it has done me more good than all the rest of the vac. put together.

Will you please thank Marion for the kind provision which she made for my dinner when I reached home: it was very thoughtful of her.

I am not going to write a long epistle but merely a few lines to thank you very much for such a jolly week.

I hope Mrs Goulty is getting better & that you are all right by now.

Yr friend

Baldwin.

Goulty 4

Exeter Coll. Ox.

Oct. 5. 81

Dear Howard

I am writing this epistle with a pencil stolen from you & wh. I have been carrying about really with the intention of giving it back to you! First of all I must confess my sins & ask your forgiveness for the way in which I treated you on Monday it was a great deal too bad of me. I went to try & find you just before the train started but could not make out where you were.

Arnold [*insert in pen, probably by another hand*] Sir C. Arnold White [*end insert*] was very jolly in fact I have seen him several times whilst he has been here but now he has left for London. Leonard came up yesterday evening we were together a good deal then & I am just going to his room till "Hall" (alias dinner) which here comes off at 7 a rather awkward time if one happens to be anxious to do much work in the evenings. As to the exam. they gave us a horrible Grammar paper with most outlandish parts of verbs & that kind of work which did not in the least suit me so that I await my viva in fear & trembling. The Latin prose I think I did fairly though of course very doggy still I hope there were not any "howlers" in it or if there were small is my chance of passing. I fancy even I am all right in Mathem [*sic*]

Thursday morn

Thank you very much for your letter which has just come: my only address is Exeter Coll. I am very sorry that I did not see your sisters and Flea [*insert, in pen, by another hand*] Frank B. Lea [*end insert*] on my way: it was very good of them to come to the station & please thank them all the same. I hope to come down again late Tuesday aft. as my viva comes on that day & I shall know the result just about in time to let me catch the last train leaving here something like 6.15. I think reaching M'Chester 11.50 p.m.: so that I shall pass through Alderley after you have gone to roost. On Friday again I come up & no more L&NW trains to Oxford for me. 6 1/2 mortal hours with a carriage packed full of squally babies. I like the latter much but not when they are altogether in a railway carriage. If I could only have that grammar paper over again I would pass this Exam. but as that is not possible I am settling down to hard work in expectation of a terribly hard time at my viva.

As to Oxford I only wish some of ...[*surviving letter ends here, presumably second page lost*]

Goulty 5

Exeter College

Oxford

Oct. 17. 81

Dear Howard,

Thank you for your note given to me at the station. It was very jolly of Polly & Emily to come & see me though by the way in which I treated them I fear they would not think that I thought so. I hardly spoke to them & will you please ask them to forgive my rudeness & thank them much for coming. I was very glad to see Frank also & Mrs Goulty: as the train only stopped a minute or two there was hardly time to shake hands & then get off again. I did not see Emily's note till the train had gone on & was very much amused with it. Is the expression on the owl's face in the picture drawn by her or has the Flea had a hand in it for it looks remarkably like his workmanship? If Emily has done it it is very good. I enclose it in case you have not seen it but please let me have it back as I must keep it (what an amazing number of "it" I have somehow got in the sentence!) As to the parcel you brought me on Saturday I thought that anything in which Marion had had a share must contain some trick & so was fully prepared for her part. The rest was very welcome & will keep me quiet when otherwise I might be crying. The country did look splendid all the way up but the sun set just after leaving Banbury & it was

quite dusk before I reached my rooms. The latter belong to another man who has had two flings at "Mods" & is going to take another at Xmas. However the scout tells me that there is but a slight chance of his ever getting through so most probably after next vac. the rooms will be my own. They are next door to those which I had during the Exam. & look over the Broad. Their previous occupier seems to have [insert] had [end insert] a most curious idea of art & from the strange confusion of pious books & drinking mugs in his cupboard I should think he was rather eccentric in his ways. Before "Hall" I just had time to run over to Leonard's rooms & then got back borrowed a gown for the occasion, not having had time to get one of my own, & went in to Hall feeling most uncomfortable & not quite at home in my new garments. However no mishap took place & I am back again in my own rooms feeling, at present, everything very strange. Tomorrow I must see the Rector & then settle down in real earnest to my work & to my "play" also. I intend joining the boat club & getting coached this term but when I know more I will let you know of my doings.

Yr friend

Baldwin

Goultly 6

Nov 3. 81

Dear Howard,

Thank you so much for your last letters & its enclosed flowers. I expect we are better off up here than even you at Alderley as there are lots of "Gloire de Dijons" (or whatever they are called) out yet. Snow began on Nov. 1. but not to any great extent & today is quite mild. I enjoy the afternoon's boating immensely: those of us from Exeter go together & take a pair-oar steering in turns though as the other two like doing this very well & I don't care for it I am usually rowing all the way. It must be doing me good as it is such splendid exercise & such an entire change also. This morning I was out to breakfast (a terribly heavy one which prevented my working all the morning). There were three others there & as these were mixtures of "Shelly-worshippers" [sic] "Swinburne-adorers" & Atheists of a pronounced type I was hardly in my element more particularly as the conversation turned on such subjects as the girls of Oxford tobacconists shops in fact this was almost the only topic. Whatever made the man ask me to meet the other two I cannot imagine.

[insert] This af. I have seen beautiful trees all golden red & brown with autumn tints. [end insert] Don't take this as a sample of my friends up here for they are by no means like this.

The two I am most with are very jolly fellows. In fact there are now about a dozen men in Exeter who I should really care to have as friends & that is plenty, for you have no idea what a time they take up. One or two of them are slightly aesthetical with peacock feathers, blue china etc but of course none of those expressions of which we have heard so much. Indeed a real aesthete has a very rough time of it up here being perfectly sure of a ducking some time or another. There are a few about with flowing locks, green velvet coats & brown hats but nothing more.

I have given up all hope of doing much real work this first term though the day is always quite filled up with various duties. Of course I see Leonard every day & usually go in & sit with him whilst he has his dinners [insert] (& talks like a man on one particular subject & excites my envy with showing me *huge* piles of manuscript) [end insert] [insert] I can assure you the postman won't bless this engagement) [end insert] from 5.30 to 6. His rooms are quite close to the Union so I usually come in here [insert] from the river [end insert] to write letters & see the papers & reach Exeter soon after 6: our Hall being at 7.

As to my work I have not got hardly none. I am reading Memorabilia [sic] - 3 books - Terence (about the lowest - filthiest stuff ever written) 3 books - Greek gospels (not begun yet) - most probably Plato's Meno [sic] & Apologia or something else (not begun) & Logic. Therein lies my work till next June & through this itself I can get with ease by 4 hrs. work per day & a little harder during the last part. I don't think it will do me much harm to take things easily a little as I have not really had much rest this last year & don't feel up to very outrageous hours.

Moreover I want to get a little general reading & am engaged in "Rienzi" & a scientific book in "Animal Life" for amusement & so as to keep up my biology. 6 hrs per diem is very good at Exeter. 7 hrs denotes a "smug" anything beyond that is considered the mark of a madman & something wh. cannot possibly be endured for long without shattering the system.

Surely Lea's Exam. will be out soon: We shall be very disappointed if he fail but I should think that scarcely possible. I hope Mrs Goultly keeps well please remember me to her & to Marion & Polly also & tell them the toffy [sic] is making me quite happy for a long while as it is not

nearly done Love also to Emily who I hope has recovered her wanted exuberance of spirit rather damped I fear by my august presence. I shall be very glad to see you all at O.T.S. at Xmas which is drawing very nigh. W.B.S.

Goulty 7

Nov. 11. 81

Dear Howard

Thank you for your last letter with its enclosed flowers which smelt jolly even when they reached here as the post seemed to have squashed that out of them as well as everything else 'ere they came into my hands. I could not in the least understand the news about poor Lea: it must be terribly discouraging to him & especially after he had been really waking [sic] so hard. What does he intend doing now? I suppose you are working hard. So am I or rather all my time is fully occupied. Morning with work afternoon with outdoor pleasure & evening with work – general reading & friends. I dont read my books after 10.30 & then if there are no friends in settle down to a novel & end up with some poetry. Just now I am reading "Ernest Maltravers" also some of Swinburne. After this term however I fear that I shall not have quite so much time to myself. I hope you enjoy your Law: the History part I should by no means object to in fact I rather had thoughts of reading for history here but after thinking over it came to the conclusion that under the circumstances it would be wiser to have the extra time for science & devote myself to that alone in the way of studying for the coming two or three years. It is very awkward of them at home to just go & get the fever again. However I am very glad it is nothing serious & hope it may pass over all right. Tomorrow four weeks I come down & can assure you that I am much looking forward to the event not quite perhaps as a b...er [illegible] to get home but still I shall be very glad to see you all once more that is if our house be free from quarantine which I rather doubt as fever usually takes more than four weeks to clear off. If it be not I am rather puzzled as to the decorations yesterday. Now I will stop as I have been running on rather too much. The time will soon pass between now & Dec 10. Amongst other things I shall have to do the main part of my work in the vacs. Will you please thank Wick for a letter of his to wh. I will soon reply. Are you yourself playing football. I hope the school gets on all right in this.

Yr friend

Baldwin

Goulty 8

Thank you for your syllabus. Why are not you giving a paper? Kind regards to Flea. His failure is still a mystery & will I fear remain so.

Nov. 18. 81

Dear Howard,

I am just writing to say that I shall be very glad to accept your kind invitation to spend a week at Alderley on my way home as there seems to be little chance if any that by the 19th we shall be disinfected. Next to going home there is nothing I should enjoy more than coming to you & I shall much look forward to the week. You will I suppose be in Town all the day or nearly so. I must really endeavour this time to do something in the way of reading as nearly all my real work must be done in the vac. & also if it be possible & I not too much in the way I shall be very glad to start decorations at once as we shall need all the time that we can get. I have not actually heard from old Trafford for at least ten days! & so dont a bit know how things are going: thank you much for your weekly budget & its enclosures. They smell quite "springy" & make me rather wish that the winter were past. Up here we are longing for some real cool weather instead of this wretched mildness: my windows are always wide open & then the room is terrible hot & close.

I am beginning to work a little more & am very thankful to do so. My classic work including classes (& logic too) takes up all the mornings that is 4 hours: the rest of the day not spent in boating & wh. will now I hope amount to at least another 4 hours I spend in science & just now in getting my paper ready principally for the Biological. This I have but begun this week & find it will take a great deal of time as it means going through no end of books there being not a single one bearing anything like directly upon the subject: at least that I can hear of: there was a pamphlet in French but that I cannot get much to my dismay as it is out of print. I feel slightly "dished". Though I have always spoken of coming down on the 10th I really dont know the exact date: the term ends then I believe but they have a habit (a rather awkward one) of giving us Exams at College & as there is no accounting for the manoeuvres of "Dons"

goodness alone knows when these will come on. I shall not stay up a moment longer than it is absolutely necessary & will let you know definitely as soon as I can. The main train from here (S.W.) stops, I believe at Alderley; though of this I really am not quite sure. What you say about "Ernest Maltravers" – that it is very clever – I quite agree with but in "Rienzi" there is certainly something more than cleverness. To me "Ernest Maltravers" seems to put a very good face on what is nothing less than immorality & in parts there struck me as being attempts – very forced – to pull in something religious [*insert*] to atone for the rest [*end insert*] "Rienzi" however is just splendid. I am now enjoying Kingsley's "Yeast". To enjoy properly the latter's books you out [*sic*] really to have read his life: you can see so clearly then what he is aiming at. The other day I met a man at Exeter who knows the Kingsleys well & used to stay at Eversley with them. Charles Kingsley taught him to play billiards but as he says he was too young to appreciate it then & I don't think either that he could appreciate it much better now. This man has however one good quality if no other – he can play the violin beautifully. Exeter is very musical & often you hear the trombone – violincello – violin – French horn – piano – harmonium going at the same time in different men's rooms & of course each playing a diff. tune: sometimes it is slightly distracting now I will cease. I hope your mother is better & with many thanks for your invitation I am

Yr friend
Baldwin.

Goultly 9

Excuse the address but really I am not drunk.

Exeter Coll.
Oxford

Dec. 7. 81

Dear Howard,

Many thanks for your letter. I hope you are not labouring under any idea that I like, at all events to receive short epistles: if you allow me to clear any such mistake from your mind. With regard to my coming down there is no ~~go~~ help to my going in for some [*insert*] Exams [*end insert*] (if you can understand such an Expression). These will come in on Saturday & on Monday we shall be what is technically known as "ragged" that is have a viva voce with the dons & get rowed at. Now it all depends upon how great a time this occupies when I shall be able to get off. I am going to speak to my tutor & hope to get my viva put on early: if I be fortunate I hope to leave by the G.W. at 2.45 which seems to reach Alderley at 7.49 if however I cannot get off so early the next train would be at 5 something getting I think to A.E. at 10.23. I am not quite sure about this latter but if I cannot get in by the early one would you mind me coming in so late in the evening? It would save me a day if I can get down on Monday & as far as I can see we shall be very much pressed indeed for time in the decorations. I am sending this off in great haste as you may possibly see from the writing wh. I believe is, if possible, even worse than usual. Poor Emily seems to be very badly treated: please tell her I have finished the toffies [*sic*] & they have kept me quiet when otherwise I might have been crying. Just now I am cutting all my classes as I thought they really could not expect a fellow to go to lectures & get ready for Exams at the same time. I am awfully looking forward to coming down Please excuse more as I am really busy this week & lazy too.

Yr friend
Baldwin

Goultly 10

Whalley Range

Dec. 25. 81

Dear Howard,

I have only just time to send you a line to give you my best wishes for a very jolly Christmas & New Year when the latter comes. I have had very little time yet to get through many cards: will you please distribute the enclosed which I fear are very rough ones & thank everyone for theirs to me. I cannot write more now but please give my love to Frank & the compliments of the season. I hope you will have a very jolly day: we shall be very quiet: the doctor won't let us have any young people in the house till the end of January (he is a fearful old woman) & so we shall have to give up even our family gathering.

Best wishes to yourself from

Yr friend

Baldwin.

I fear I shall not have time to go to the pictures as I am getting very busy

Goulty 11

Whalley Range

Jan 3. 82

Dear Howard,

May I trouble you to take the accompanying parcel to Alderley. I have enclosed my birthday book which I bought purposely to your house to get your names in but of course came away without getting it done. Will you please ask them all to write in it including Mrs & Mr. Goulty if they will & Emily too. I had hoped to see you this evening but the Fates have willed otherwise. We were very sorry to hear that your mother was unwell but hope that she is getting better now. Best wishes for a very jolly year from

Yr friend

Baldwin

Goulty 12

Exeter Coll.

Feb. 8. 82

Dear Howard,

Your welcome letter came as usual on Monday evening: they always come in just before I go to the "Stapledon", that is our college debating society & I defer the pleasure of reading them till the debate is over. It certainly took some time for me to wade through your epistle but finally mind triumphed over matter. As you say the matric. is good & I would like to know where the two are in the divisions: yesterday's Daily News gave about half a dozen names of men in "honours" but surely the list must be longer than that. Let me congratulate you now on your success in the law exam. I don't for a moment believe that the best men cut the paper, having had some experience of your modesty 'ere now. I do hope your mother is not going to have at all a bad time this spring surely the weather is mild enough just now: at least it is with us. You may not perhaps take it in all at once but really I have turned quite good this term: not yet have I missed a morning chapel!! & moreover before going there I indulge in the luxury of a cold bath wh. here implies letting the water quietly trickle all over you whilst you stand shivering & swearing for which one makes up by immediately rushing off to chapel. Next week is my turn to read the lessons. At the present moment you will be listening to Mr Snowden lecturing & as it is now [illegible] after 8 I must adjourn to read. I hope these Wednesday evenings are turning out a success & that the exhib. will be one also. My love to Emily please. Mind & take care of yourself & don't you get ill with your lungs as we could hardly get on with you laid by

Yr affect. friend

Baldwin.

Goulty 13

Exeter Coll.

March 2. 82

Dear Howard,

For now the 1000th time or thereabouts I have treated you somewhat shamefully & can only plead that the "Torpids" have entirely upset my afternoons during the last week as of course I have been running with them. Our boat has gone up four places which is by no means bad but I don't quite know when my voice will recover itself. I have just come from a lecture on "Fugues" by Ousely the professor of music here but have not understood a word of it & my head is full of "questions" "answers" "counterpoints" "strepittos" (or something) "dominants" etc - terms some of which may possibly be known to you. However the illustrations on the organ were very jolly. The other evening I heard Norman Neruda & Hallé & enjoyed it immensely. I think it is rather a good idea having the meetings in the Breakfast room as there it must be no end more comfortable. Thank you for sending me the thoughts: also for the flower. On Monday next I am moving a ~~letter~~ resolution in favour of Local Option at our College Soc. though as yet I hardly know anything about it: however I have just got a speech of Sir. W. Lawson & that will set me up in facts.

I hope Cecil's lecture last night was successful: he told me that he had rigged up a "Peppers Ghost" which would be sure to take. You will of course know that Leonard has got into New &

is quite content therewith for it is about the jolliest college equal even (in some respects) to Exeter. I hope your mother is better. Will you please give the enclosed note to Marion. B.

Goulty 14

Exeter Coll.

March 8. 82

Dear Howard,

Many thanks again for your letter & will you please thank Emily [*insert in pencil by another hand – 11 years old*] also for her epistle which I will try & answer too before long but tell her that the time which I ought to have spent in replying was taken up in endeavouring to find out its meaning so that she must lay all the blame on herself if she does not hear from me.

I am glad Cecil's lecture was a success though it would have been surprising if it had not been so & I am glad too to hear that Mr Hutchinson is improving & earnestly hope he may continue to do so rapidly. With regard to what you say about Exams. I really think it would be much better as far as real education goes if they could be entirely discarded but since this is not practicable & it is a choice of the lesser of two evils I do certainly think that the Oxford (or Cambridge) is less unsatisfactory than the Preceptors. the only disadvantage of the latter seems to be that they tell you more exactly how you have done in each particular subject. I know Exams. have their good points but they have very bad ones & do not help a real education much as they do inevitably lead to cramming.

Thank you for your flowers: we have here been enjoying the most lovely weather & everything is commencing to bud – hawthorne [*sic*] trees in many parts are half-out – almond trees are in full blossom & primroses, daffodils & crocuses of course abound.

Have you anything settled about Easter yet? All I know about myself is that I am going to read hard. This is absolutely necessary if Mods. is to be passed by summer. It comes on in May. I hope your mother is getting on well & that you yourself are well

Much love from

B.

Goulty 15

Exeter Coll

March 16. 82

Dear Howard

Thank you for your last letter which came somewhat earlier than usual: In a very few days now I hope to see you as having learnt experience by last term I went to the sub-rector & got off "collections" (by wh. name the exams. held by the college at the end of each term are known). This is a decided advantage as it saves me all the nuisance of going over the work again long before I want to. I shall come down tomorrow (Saturday) but only for a very few days as I ant to read this vac. & so am coming up again very soon. At home they are all going away: I could not read if I went with them & on the other hand they did not want to leave me at home alone so it seemed better on the whole for me to come up again & work here as it will be beautifully quiet in the vac: several other men are staying so we shall not be absolutely lonely & shall yet do some reading. I come up again on the next Friday & will manage somehow to see you but am afraid that there will not be too much time in wh. to do this. You must be immensely enjoying this weather: we have simply cloudless days & you can hardly imagine how beautiful everything looks round here: Alderley will look very jolly.

Farewell now till I see you

Yr friend

Baldwin.

Goulty 16

Whalley Range

March 21. 82.

Dear Howard,

Thank you for your note & enclosure. I was surprised on Saturday to see your sisters at the station more especially as I had no idea that we stopped at Alderley but I just put my head out of the carriage thinking that there was the slight chance that some one might perhaps be wandering about & of course saw them. Thank you very much for asking me over for a day but I really must not come. My time here is very short & fully occupied: however I want to have a chat with you. Could you come home with me on Thursday night when they have

arranged to have my lecture (not Wed.) I can promise you a most uncomfortable bed but it will I fear be our only chance of meeting this vac.

Will you please thank your sisters for their kindness which touched me deeply more especially as they made very careful arrangements that the genuine upper part should be spoiled by what lay below.

After all I never wrote to Emily please ask her forgiveness & say I'll try & be better in future. If I dont hear from you I shall take it for granted that you will be here on Thursday night. Thank you for your invitation & please excuse my not coming over though I am really beginning to feel ashamed as you have never yet been with us. I have been playing football with the fellows her these two last afts. ergo—great stiffness present in all my limbs.

W.B.S.

Will you present my kind regards to Frank. B.

Goultly 17

Ap. 28. 82

Dear Howard,

I am once again treating you very badly but I wanted to get a line off so that you could not say that you had not heard from me this week. Emily will doubtless show you the flowers which I have just enclosed to her. What they will be like on arrival remains to be seen but when they are fresh they are very pretty indeed & quite a peculiarity to the valley of the Thames – at least so they say here & I certainly have never seen them before. Only one flower grows on each stalk & their name is Fritillery [*sic*] at least it is pronounced thus.

This morning a letter came from Harry Bowman & I was glad to hear that he was safely through the prelim. med. Yesterday I dined & spent a good part of the evening at Keble with Fairbrother on old Owens man whom you know. He is out of the ordinary run of men but very jolly: at Owens I did not know him & only met him here a short time ago in another man's rooms.

We are now being favoured with typical April weather which is very jolly save for purposes of tennis: however we manage to play a good deal.

I must stop now hurriedly as there is no more time. I hope you are all right. Willie Hyle has left us now after being here some three weeks.

Yr friend

Baldwin.

Heard from I.B.A. [?] the other day

Goultly 18

Exeter Coll.

May 9. 82

Dear Howard,

Of course during this past week end everyone here has been full of the Irish news. It reached Keble late on Saturday night as the wife of the warden there is a sister of Lord Cavendish but it was not known generally till Sunday morning when of course telegrams were up in the Union. The Union was simply full all day long: it was very seldom I fancy that any news here arouses such intense interest as did this.

It will tell fearfully against the government though it seems very probable that it will be followed by a diminution of crimes. The great majority of the men are terribly bitter against Gladstone & as to Chamberlin [*sic*] he would have a very warm time of it were he to come here: I dont know whether they would "duck" him but it would run very hard with him.

For myself I admire Gladstone if possible more than ever: I suppose you read Forsters speech on his resignation: the Daily News had an article on it wh. I thought was somewhat disgraceful as Forster had a perfect right to say all that he did in favour of his own policy: could you be up here for some time you would see a good deal of the Conservative side though I dont say you would thereby be much edified: Lord Salisbury when he comes into power will suit these men exactly & I fear that this Irish business altogether has ruined the Government.

Thus much for these affairs.

I am glad you came so high in Pol. Econ. though it must have been terribly aggravating not to have come higher still: however next year you may get the first place instead of the second Will you please congratulate Frank for me: I suppose he is not doing anything definite yet as

you have not said anything about him lately.

This bazaar seems to be a great success & to be well planned judging from the pictures in last week's Graphic if a week's "flirting" at an ordinary bazaar results in so many engagements what will a fortnight's: all the same it must be rather jolly.

Yesterday evening we had such an entertainment at our Rector's (alias – the Head of Coll. Exon)

Mrs rectors gave a "stand-up" or a "perpendicular" which means an evening dress entertainment most awfully stiff & in which the gentlemen standing up screw their necks about & talk to the ladies sitting down for the space of two or three hours. Such agony & such a delightful way of spending one's evening.

However it was not quite so bad as I had expected though we were by no means sad to get it over. Will you please thank Emily for her letter which I will answer soon. She says poor Twitch has disappeared. I can imagine how beautiful the pool at Gawsorth would look: the fresh green here is delightful. Much love from Baldwin.

Goulty 19

Exeter Coll.

May 19. 82

Dear Howard,

I have kept you a very long while waiting for your letter this week & now I shall have to ask you to excuse a very short one. We have been (that is to say Exeter Coll.) very busy & very excited lately. The eights have been on & as our boat as gone head of the river the college has been somewhat excited however we are quieting down now though from the row on the last evening of the races anyone would have imagined that the place was inhabited by madmen. We illuminated the whole college with Chinese lanterns the shops in Oxford being pretty well ransacked for the purpose. About nine we started a bonfire in the middle of the quad clearing out all the faggots we could lay our hands upon & also getting rid of some old furniture out of the lecture rooms. This was an eminent success as there were good supplies of parafin [*sic*] at hand which of course is much used as we have no gas in the rooms but lamps. Altogether it was a great success though I am thankful it does not come often.

I can imagine how beautiful everything must be round A.E.: somehow up here our horse-chestnuts are getting quite brown & now it seems almost past spring especially with such weather as the last week has been. A week today Mods. begins: I am very badly up for it but shall do my best to scrape through. As to the Irishmen in the first place it has been awfully amusing to see the Conservatives endeavouring to make party capital out of the O'Shea Parnell business: with regard to the rest there seems every likelihood of a split in the Irish Camp: if Parnell leaves the rest he will take with him a great number of the Irish. However I do hope the Gov. will take the Arrears Bill along with the "Coercion Bill". I see Holden is in: there was not much doubt about it but I am very glad. This term I have really been too busy to take much interest in Politics: confining myself almost entirely to the "Pall Mall".

I am sorry you cannot go to the Lakes. Much love from B.

Please remember me to your mother

Respects to Miss Emily

Goulty 20

Coll. Exon

June 2. 82

Dear Howard,

I daresay that inwardly you have been uttering things not very complimentary to myself in connection with our correspondence but though it doubtless is somewhat late on in the week you are really going to hear from me. With us there is not the slightest indication of the fact of its being Whitsuntide but doubtless there is sufficient proof with you to make up for this.

However I hope the trippers are not doing too much damage to the edge & it is only fair for them to have their turn once a year. Did you see in the papers how the mob had been endeavouring to immortalize itself by scratching names even on the big bell on its journey: one man I saw went so far as to provide himself with an iron chisel & mallet wherewith to inscribe his name. The viva voces in connection with our Exam. are on now: some of them are rather fun especially in the divinity parts. I happened to be in whilst Bunyan the old Owen's man was undergoing this agony: the Examiner asked him if he knew any miracle of

destruction besides the fig tree (referring of course to the swine) after thinking a minute he replied that he knew one - "the miraculous draft of fishes." The examiner looked somewhat surprised & told him that that was not exactly the one he meant: another man this exam. when asked what he knew of Zacharias could only supply the rather startling information "that he was struck blind in the temple for calling his son John"! This really came off last week also another that "James & John were very fierce & called Barjonas which means a twin"! I rather hope I shall not do anything comical: a friend of mine this morning informed the examiner that Asphasia was a mistress of Themistocles! The examiner grinned & said "well not quite." Another shot landed him on Alabriades [?] but on a third trial he hit on the right man Pericles. Viva voces however are far greater fun to listen to than to undergo & the sooner they are done away with the better. Some of our men have to go down as soon as the term is over & come up (wherever they may live) for one day in the middle of the "long" for their viva. I shall be very glad indeed so far as I at present know to come to A.E. during the vac. on condition that you will come first & spend some few days with us. I shall be reading for my London Exam. all day & we can spend the evenings together: you will I suppose have to be in town all day & really it is hardly worth while being at our place all day time unless one has some definite work to do but the June evenings will be very jolly: we have not got such scenery as you have but we'll have tennis. I suppose the Lake Party will be spending today at Windermere: they are lucky. What a huge party someone told me they were going to have: no fewer than 18!

I come down on June 10 & will write you [*illegible*] soon what day I want you to come to us if you can. I hope Mrs Goulty will enjoy her visit to London. Much love to yourself from
Baldwin

Please tell Fk. I will write him very soon

Goulty 21

Emily's letter did amuse me: I received instruction not to answer till I was told & am anxiously awaiting such orders.

Coll. Exon.

June 7. 82.

Dear Howard,

In writing to you thus late again I feel that it is filling up my cup of wickedness for this term. In the first place can you come & stay with us on Friday of next week: if you can come then we can have some of the long June evenings in our garden which though far from being as beautiful as the Edge is yet a very jolly place in wh. to play tennis. As you know I must read hard during the day for "London" but would manage to have the evenings free. We are very quiet at home but I know you wont mind this.

I cannot say exactly when [several sentences cut out of letter] very [also cut out] Martin to come & stay with you as I hear from home she is going to do: I want to have your sisters at our place soon though I fear when they come if it be before my London Exams. that I myself shall be too busy to have much time [*other side of above cutting out*] [*illegible*] you know W.W. spent part of last week-end with me & I think liked Oxford. My "viva" is on Friday morning: may the Fates & Deus deal kindly with
your sincere Friend

W.B.S.

Goulty 22

Coll Exon

June 9. 81

Dear Howard,

I have only just time for a line to tell you I am through Mods. after a delightfully short & sweet viva & that I am coming down tomorrow by the train reaching Ld. Rd. at 5.30 (S.W.) what time it gets to Alderley I dont know. Please dont think of coming to meet it if that includes missing or curtailing any trip. If my soeur is with you please convey my respects to the same & a hope that I may see her as I pass through, if that would not mean the spoiling of any plan in the way of a walk etc.

W.B.S.

Goulty 23

Whalley Range

July 26. 82

Dear Howard,

As there is nothing else to be done I'll forgive your not coming this evening & hope you are enjoying yourself at A.E. As to tomorrow I think the train you mention is a "deal" too early as that would land us at Sale whilst they were in the midst of dinner or lunch.

I want to see Leonard & I want to see Miss P. as doubtless you do but yet I dont feel very anxious about going more especially as it will stop us having hardly any time at home here before you go away as Wed. & Thurs. evenings are occupied do manage to come if you can I will go by the train leaving Oxford Rd at 2.15 & will meet it at either Stretford or O.T.

If you cannot come I will of course explain to Cecil but if you are not able to I will get home here by tea-time.

Mable's [*sic*] been amusing us at tea – Mrs Allison has been "awfully crabby today". I hope you are better: they wont think Whalley Range agrees with you if you look as bad at home this evening as you did here this morning but I hope you dont. I shall hardly get to sleep tonight for want of somebody to make a row. If you do happen to see Mr Goulty please remember me to him as I suppose it is his birthday. I do hope you are better.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goulty 24

Somewhere.

Aug. 4. 82

Dear Howard,

This letter is being written in many places as I am going along so this may account for the somewhat indefinite address. I am just going from here to Ipswich & so by boat down the river to Harwich & home again & avail myself of the time spent in the train & in waiting for trains to get through a little correspondence. Thanks for your epistle you will think I was treating you terribly badly in not writing before but time slips by very rapidly & for a good deal of what ought to be done I have nothing to show some "paving-stones" which expression if you call to mind our old sixth you may possible be enabled to interpret.

I would that you could be enjoying some of the weather with which we are favoured since coming only part of the day has been wet & every evening is beautifully light & cloudless: the evenings are something wonderful & enough to make me feel quite sentimental.

I am doing something in the way of sketching but not very much & am going to go in more for black & white than colours as the latter take comparatively so long a time especially when one is rushing about & covering a good deal of ground as I am doing today.

On Tuesday I had a very interesting day at Bury St Edmonds which is a fine old town with very interesting relics such as the altar of the old Abbey from wh. Langton addressed the nobles at the time of Magna Charta. [*sic*] However I wont begin to guide book. I am also reading somewhat – "Verdant Green" is very stale & I shall have to make great exertions to get through it if ever that is to be done. If you have not read "Mary Barton" you will like it very much it is now published in the 6th Edition. We are now in a train wh. may account for the hieroglyphics. Yesterday I was talking to one of my relations or connections or second cousins various "[*illegible*]" who knows Shorthouse the author of John Inglesant very well & spends some time each year at his house: I was very interested to get hold of her & hear something about him

The book is certainly an uncommon one: there are some strange things in it – mystical affairs after the fashion of those in George Macdonals "David Elizabeth" [?] wh you will have read but if you have not read it [*insert*] (John Inglesant) [*end insert*] before then you shall have my copy when we next meet. I am very much obliged to your father for giving me the book: its just come back from the binders in time for me to take it. After all when coming up I missed Beard as he left a day earlier: [2 words *illegible*] through his 1st B... [*illegible*] at last: it will be almost as much a disappointment as a surprise to him as [*illegible*] had he missed this he would have had no more work as it was to be his last shot.

If you can decipher these remarks you are somewhat clever but I cannot go on any longer.

We are just stopping so Ill wind up in peace.

I really must write to Miss E. soon or she'll cut me when we meet

Yr friend

W.B.S

Please thank your family for their congratulations I hope your mother is pretty well.

Goulty 25

Gresford

Sept. 6. 82

Dear Howard

Excuse black edged paper but it is the only kind which seems to be at hand as we are going home tomorrow & have come to the end of everything.

As to coming to A.E. if it will not put you out I should be glad to come on Sept 22nd: I cannot well come later than that as it is very probable that I shall have to then be working with Dr Marshall & if not I could not well be away from home just before going up the exact date of which I dont know but it is somewhere about the 10th. In fact I feel altogether rather in a state of uncertainty as there are some friends coming to us sometime this month (we cannot say exactly when) & when they are with us I must be at home: however if it wont really inconvenience you & especially in your reading I should like to fix the 23rd for coming to A.E. [insert] I see from your note that they are coming home on the 22nd so I might perhaps come on the 23rd or the Monday next if that wont do. [end insert] I am very sorry to hear what you say about your chances for the Dauntery & hope they are somewhat exaggerated: there is one comfort however & that is that if you dont get it this time you will next.

We leave here tomorrow I am glad to say. The place in parts is pretty & might perhaps have been more enjoyable had we been favoured with a little brighter weather: yesterday evenings sunset was splendid: we found out a really magnificent view over the whole of Cheshire: we could see Chester away into Denbighshire & Flintshire – Beeston – Knutsford – Alderley – Delamere – the hills around Frodsham & Helsby & for miles away in the direction of Crewe: it was certainly very fine.

I have been very wicked to poor Emily & really must write to her: please remember me to your Father & Mother & to your sisters: I remember well about Mr Blair & hope they will have a very enjoyable time at his house: Shall be glad to see you once more in a few days. What a lovely ride you must have had to Buxton it quietly drizzled with us all the aft. as I walked over to Mold. Much love from Baldwin

Goulty 26

Whalley Range

Sept 14. 82.

Dear Howard,

I am just sending a line to do what I did not do yesterday – send you my best wishes for your birthday & the opening year. We are all getting terribly aged & for one I feel very dissatisfied indeed with present progress & yet it will be some time before I really get on much: you are better off as you have not to wait perhaps 5 or 6 or even 7 years longer yet before you do something.

Your twin-brother is at present leading an enjoyable but somewhat lazy life (according to his own letters) in or near to Darlington: I have heard from him once or twice since we left the Lakes: Dick & Purdon are starting today to bicycle down to Manchester from Crieff. I fear much the weather is breaking but am looking forward to seeing the district round Malham this week end as I have heard so much of it.

May you have a successful New Year in every way

Yr sincere friend

W. Baldwin Spencer

Goulty 27

Coll. Exon

Oct. 19. 82

Dear Howard,

We have once more I supposed opened a correspondential campaign to continue for another eight weeks one of which has already nearly gone by. I am very glad indeed to have once more got settled down here & have begun real hard work very different to that of last year: it is striking what a change it makes in the pleasure of reading when the subject is a pleasant one. I have so much to do & such a lot of practical work than when I have fairly begun there will be but little time, even in the aft., which will be my own for such things as exercise & general reading: however of the former I must get an hour or 1 1/2 hrs each day & for the latter there is always one day in the week: quite apart from theological reasons it is a very

good thing not to read [insert] (work) [end insert] on Sundays.

I am glad you enjoyed "John Inglesant" so much though I have read it through I feel as yet to know it little & shall go through it again quietly: just now however my friends are making a run on the book: like you I thought the concluding & summarizing part the best in the book that is most interesting to us: with regard to the Italian part: I think one almost feels while reading that the influence of the Italian climate making you feel almost listless: [sic] Inglesant certainly never could have married Lauretta, towards whom I think there is absolutely nothing to attract one, had they met in England & somehow that marriage does make you think less of him: it came so comparatively soon after the death of Mary Collet: I should have thought that Inglesant was just the kind of man who would look forward to a time of union in some other world. I can never understand second marriages: that is if the first marriage be such as it ought to be: Inglesant's was not of course actually a marriage but it was really one & I am sure it could only be the influence of the Italian surroundings that ever made him marry Lauretta or drew him towards her at all.

As you say there is nothing in the book which would help anyone in the matter of dealing with the lower classes: the little bit concerning the origin of the belief amongst the latter in relics & such things is very clever: all the good which is to be drawn from the book in the way of getting clearer ideas on the great subject is to be got from the last few pages: how strange the mysterious part is: I should much like to know more about such things. To alter the subject – it is simply horrible here just now in the way of weather: yesterday indeed was most lovely but that is the only bit of fine there has been since we came up: all the virginian creeper on that Old Hall opposite my rooms is just now crimson & looks beautiful against the dark ivy close by: now I must stop: I hope Mrs Goulty is well please remember me to her & to Mr.

Goulty

Yr sincere friend

Baldwin

Goulty 28

Coll. Exon.

Oct. 28. 82

Dear Howard,

This will about reach you when (I hope) you are starting your next to me for I always look for your "fist" on Monday evening or Tuesday morn: I have been so busy this week that you have indeed been put off till they [sic] very last moment: this is the first afternoon which I have not spent at the Museum in my work but I have been down to lunch with a man in Christ Church and we sat chatting away on things scientific & general talk till nearly four & so I have just come here to disburden myself of a slight amount of correspondence & then get to my reading.

I am adopting the plan of giving Saturdays (that is the reading part of the day) up to a recapitulation of the work done during the week & fancy it will pay me. I hope your reading for the first LLB goes well. This week has of course settled the fate of poor Frank: I think I'll write & wish him success before the result comes out as I dont quite know how to write if he fails. It is somewhat of a good job that you & Cecil are not anxious to get into Oxford from the South just now as the floods are so high that water is over the face of the earth to the depth of some 3 or 4 feet: it is something dreadful: from Magdl. Bridge nothing is to be seen save water with trees growing out of it: the river course is completely hidden & at last it has covered one stone in Magdl which has never before been thus covered within the memory of man! the new works at the bridge which you may perhaps remember are simply deluged with the water rushing over them. We are more unfortunate apparently than you are in the North: one cold snowy morning last week brought down numberless leaves though the trees are yet very beautiful.

Last Sunday we had a sermon from Jowett which had perhaps more in it to set one thinking about than any I have ever heard: he stated his position very clearly and unmistakably. He quite gave up belief in the Divinity of Christ or in any such thing as that is generally understood by the "inspiration" of the Bible saying that that was to be judged by just the same standards & tests which we should apply to any other literary work: he clearly pointed out his belief in the evolution of religion & that our present Christianity was by no means necessarily the highest or final form & you could easily gather also if you followed him closely that he pointed far more to an ideal of what he called "righteousness" than to the existence of a Personal God: I dont know whether he was wise in saying all he did or whether indeed the

ordinary orthodox man would quite see what he did really say but it was intensely interesting to us & was quite as broad really as anything I have heard in other places: tomorrow we have Canon Farrar. Please give my kind regards to Miss Emily & thank her for her letter which I will answer when a convenient opportunity shall arrive:

Yr friend
W.B.S.

Goultly 29

Nov. 12. 82.

Dear Howard,

I had intended to write to you last night just before 12 so that † you could not say I had not written last week but somehow it did not come off as I was sitting with another man who is ill till 2.30 a.m. this morning & getting to my rooms after that adjourned my resolution or rather the putting into practise of this till this aft. & am now endeavouring somewhat to make up for failure in correspondence during the past few weeks.

I was glad to hear that Frank was through: it was quite a relief as I did not really expect it. What a relief it must be to him & to all of you indeed in Elm Grove. As yet I suppose he has not definite idea as to what he is going to do in life & rather hope that this wont make him want all the more to go in for writing.

I fear it must be rather vexing to you to see the result of the Law School as you might have at all events have secured a prize of a few pounds & for myself I never refuse anything however small of the latter description.

Last Sunday I had a very jolly walk to Dorchester & back along the road which you & Cecil passed over during the Vac: I knew the Dorchester end & the Oxford end as far as Sandford & Littlemore but had never been through Nuneham before: the cottages in this are very pretty & it is such a curious arrangement—all lining one long street & no such thing as shops. The trees all round were beautiful & much better than they are with us here in Oxford itself. We have such delightfully bright clear mornings now with not a cloud about but in the afternoons it darkens & usually pours during the evening. Last Tuesday I had one of those confounded 'stand-ups' at the 'Rectors': they is [*sic*] wretched institutions. I hope you are going on all right as you may imagine there is nothing in the way of news & being anxious to send Miss E. a line in return for numerous ones from her I will close.

Love from yr friend
W.B.S.

Goultly 30

Coll. Exon.

Nov. 18. 82

Dear Howard,

Your letter has as usual come to be answered by the last post of this week & moreover this is the last one which I shall write to you this term as I hope to be in Manchester in less than a week. If you have not heard of the slight change in my plans the latter piece of information may surprise you.

Hartog has at last got his professorship, I am very glad to say, & so this leaves them in a somewhat awkward position at Owens so I am going down as they have asked me if I could fill his place till Xmas when a permanent man will be appointed: this being so I hope to see you 'ere very long.

I fear & tremble as to what poor Emily thinks of me: my few lines in the middle of this week could, I fear, rile her terribly instead of at all pacifying her just & righteous wrath & indignation. I had a very jolly letter, as Leonard also had, from lea: what a different passing seems to have made to his spirits: it was a very jolly letter indeed: please thank him for it as I certainly shall not be able to answer it. I am or rather am going to be very busy reading during this coming few days so as at all events not to let the men know that I know less biology than they do.

Yesterday evening I heard Moody & Sankey: the latter is simply vulgar though he has a good voice: Moody is at all events in earnest: whether he will do any permanent good here I dont know: as at Cambridge they are aiming especially at undergrads. & certainly get full meetings. you cant help almost liking Moody save his looks which are extremely unintellectual "Post is closing" so I'll stop. Much love from B.

P.S. I'm coming up again to recover lost ground & read generally (most probably) the day after Xmas Day. I hope your 1st LIB goes well. Leonard begins his Mods. next Thursday dont

let this get [*illegible*] much as really he has no chance of doing much.

Goultly 31

Whalley Range

Dec 24. 82.

Dear Howard,

I am sorry to have to ask you to excuse a card this year: as I told you I'm not sending any which I don't paint myself & really there has been time to do nothing save one or two for home people: I hope Marion & Polly will forgive me as I see some have come from them though we are such an exemplary family that no letters containing cards are opened till Christmas! Emily has apparently demanded an envelope for herself.

I suppose you will be very busy: it would really do you good to have a week end in Oxford before beginning your Exam: if you'll just drop me a line I shall be only too glad to put you up. During the past day or two I have not heard any news of Mr. Lea: poor Frank it will be anything but a bright Christmas for him.

Notwithstanding your work I hope you'll have jolly day: in such weather as we are now enjoying Alderley will look beautiful: best wishes to yourself (& please give the same to Mrs. & Mr. Goultly & Marion & Polly (Emily I have sent them to on a small card in a big envelope))

from your sincere Friend

W.B.S.

Goultly 32

23 New Inn Hall St.

Dec. 30. 82

Dear Howard,

I am writing this evening, not knowing whether the post will get in on Monday morning early enough to catch you before setting off, to send my best wishes for the New Year & also for success in your immediate work: I do hope & expect also that you will get through only of course shall understand why you have not if you don't. You are perhaps not missing very much by not being in Oxford this week end: I should much like you to come only the weather is simply diabolical & we could not do or see much. On reaching Exeter I found I was absolutely the one one (Dons included) who would be about the place so judged it better & cheaper to retire into lodgings for a season & accordingly took rooms in the same house in which are Leonards: after today I hope to have his rooms which are now occupied by another man: if so I shall feel perfectly at home.

I was glad to hear the letter news about Mr. Lea & hope the improvement may be maintained they cannot surely hope that she will ever permanently recover.

Will you please thank Marion & Polly for their Xmas Cards: I know I shall get fearful blowings up for not sending any only I told you before how things were & there has been very little more time to get anything done for New Year.

Do you know Leonard has gone to Naples? I am very glad he has done so as his health really required a change & I only wish he had gone straight away: he must cave in a little as regards reading. Will you please give my best wishes to all at your House for the New Year & accept the same yourself from

yr sincere friend

W.B.S.

Goultly 33

Coll. Exon

Jan 12. 83

Dear Howard,

I want a little bit of advice on a point concerning which you have had some experience. Despite the indisputable fact of this being facile principals amongst the universities of the world there is nevertheless no means of pursuing the study of Physiology within its "walls": now I was anxious to make this one of my subjects for the London B.Sc but under these circumstances find it will be rather difficult to do so & I am thinking of taking in its stead Logic & Philosophy or whatever they call it: I suppose the logic part doesn't count much & already I have done that but could you give me some advice upon the point: it is no good telling me I can't do it in the time for I'm going to so what I should be really obliged to you for is some hints as to what to read & how to do it.

I've just been changing rooms this aft. & have gone into those next door to the old ones which you & Cecil saw in a sumptuous kind of way & of the niceness of wh. when full of things you could [therefore] form no idea: however the new ones are a good deal prettier & I shall be glad to see you in them someday in the not too-remote future.

Oxford is filling fast & my time of peace & quiet is all over for this vac.

Dont forget to let me know that you are through as soon as you can & if you could as soon as convenient let me have a little advice I should be very glad.

yr sincere friend

W. Baldwin Spencer

Goultly 34

Feb. 17. 83

Dear Howard,

I wont, since you so beseech me not to do so, apologize as I think we almost understand what each other means.

This afternoon I have seen Allie Macfadyen off home: he has been up here during the week trying for a scholarship at Brazen Nose [sic] & has gone down very despondent having done what he considers very bad papers: I rather fancy however he will be successful especially as for one scholarship he is the only candidate eligible: however it is [insert] an [end insert] absolute not a relative standard & they wont award it unless he is a good [insert] man [end insert] & promises to do well. It is surprising how much he has read in the way of general literature. Somehow it is undoubtedly the good classical men who are the best read all round. In talking to any scholar (classical) almost one feels simply ashamed at having read nothing. Some of these men too seem to remember so well what they read: I cant do this hardly at all but if I want to keep a book in memory I am obliged to look it over every now & then. The names of characters are so easily forgotten though scenes one pictured remain for long. With regard to G. Eliot's books I like "Middlemarch" the best & then the "Mill on the Floss". you must read the latter again if you have forgotten it & if you get the chance read "Janets repentance" in "Scenes of clerical life".

I fear Ruskin is not going to Lecture this term: rumour has it that he imagines himself to be Jumbo whose removal from England has cost him much grief we believe: if he can get over this delusion he may possibly lecture but it is feared that he wont be able to recover in time for this term.

Please tell Emily that I received a most insulting valentine which I feared was addressed in her handwriting.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goultly 35

Feb. 24. 83

Dear Howard,

We are now getting rapidly near the end of the term and for this I am feeling thankful as 8 weeks of hard work (that is hard for Oxford) is quite enough at a stretch in such a climate as this though just now indeed it is delightful.

Doubtless you will know that Allie has got his scholarship: I got the news via Manchester ! as the result was very late in coming out & apparently they sent Mr Dill word. I am very glad as he does deserve something after his hard reading at the grammar school.

Whilst at Owens at Christmas I had a chat with Wilkins at a senate dinner concerning the grammar school as he had for a time taken Dill's place: he seemed to think the system very good – not really a "cram" though I am sure there is a great deal of this goes on. The boys in the sixth also liked him very much as a teacher – quite as much as Dill I fancy.

For some things I should much like to have my education over again though taking all things together I should be very far from caring to have my life to live again. I should at all event be continually looking forward to reaching the present time - the Oxford life is quite a thing by itself.

Just now the Torpids are on but as floods abound & no "tow-path" is to be seen there is nothing in the way of enthusiasm going on concerning them: even were there we poor science men would be barred from sharing it: we are making arrangements to, next term, get away from the museum at 4 o'clock so as to get some chance of exercise in the way of tennis or boating the delights of both of wh. in the summer term at Oxford must be experienced

before they can be realized. I feel particularly dull this aft. so I'll ask you to excuse a short epistle. What a great & glorious match was the Bowden encounter
W.B.S.

My kind regards to Miss Emily.

Goulty 36

Coll Exon

March 3. 83

Dear Howard,

I am endeavouring as far as I can with a cold hand to write to you: the beautifully clear sunsets which we are just now enjoying are also besides beautiful somewhat cold to the hands when walking. Mackinder & I after lecture have just been a stroll [*sic*]: he is in a very anxious state today as the Poll for the President of the Union is on. Polling here is somewhat of the nature of a parliamentary election: each candidate has to have a representative there (it is open for 5 hours (at intervals) during the day. It is expected that there will be a very heavy poll today – probably 600. It closes at 9 p.m. & then comes the counting: At this I am going to represent Mackinder whilst he tremblingly awaits the result. I hope & quite think he will get it: though there is a [*illegible*] candidate up against him. President of the Union is a very nice thing to be though I have determined not to try to do anything there it takes too much time. The Varsity Science Club is as much as I can stand: they have just elected me Treasurer & Secretary for next term.

You seem to be labouring under the very false idea that there is something the matter with me: true I don't feel as fresh as at the beginning of the term but beyond that am in the best of health though by no means sorry that the term is so closely at an end.

There is one bit in your letter which was calculated to make any scientific man simply feel as if he could jump upon you that was the part in wh. you spoke of the "variety of nature seemingly indicating design": taking "design" in its ordinary meaning which is that living objects appear to have been specially created to live where & as they do now do there is nothing which is more warmly denied than this. If you look at & examine carefully all living objects you find always that each one is the resultant of a certain number of changes produced by external influences on a primitive organism wh. possessed the power of adapting itself to its surrounding circumstances & that [*the surviving letter ends there, irritatingly*]

Goulty 37

Coll Exon

March 5.83

Dear Howard,

I hope so early an answer to your epistle of this morning won't quite disconcert you.

You will be glad to hear that Mackinder got in with ease: I had a severe run to have the pleasure of letting him know first for as soon as we have done the counting it is "good form" for the representatives to go with the President into the large debating Hall whilst he declares the result. However I won a good "sprint" race down the Corn & St "Oles" to the House by some 10 yards: moreover as it was about 10 p.m. the gates were closed so I had the privilege of getting them opened whilst my opponents [*sic*] made up lost ground.

With regard to "design" I am sorry to have mistaken you but the word "design" to an evolutionist is somewhat like a red rag to a bull. I dare not follow you as far as your single "atom" technically speaking of course an "atom" could not of been that out of wh. all things have been evolved as the fundamental idea of an atom is that it cannot be divided up [*insert*] and division must take place if there be increase [*end insert*] besides I think we must postulate as much material substance as now exists as we cannot imagine matter arising or being evolved out of nothing: what evolutionists deal with is the various combinations (an extreme evolutionist would say) has at some remote period produced what we call "life" or has produced a material - simple protoplasm - endowed with "life". Of course Thompson says that protoplasm first came from some star in some mysterious way landed upon our earth: Hartog used to assure me of his firm belief that life just originated in what he termed "a lucky thunderstorm": this is not really so outlandish on the supposition that to imbue [*sic*] matter with "life" (that is the form of assimilation, reproduction etc) it is necessary to have a combination in a certain definite proportion of certain elements which combination has not yet been discovered. However this is a pointless discussion and I will stop.

I dont quite see how your argument concerning the existence of a God proves this at all. You said that the mind could not conceive anything without there existing a correspondent external and secondly that a supreme power was in our minds an essential or something to this effect & that [therefore] a ~~God~~ *[insert]* supreme power *[end insert]* did exist. I dont see the argument in the least. We cannot conceive in our minds of anything existing without there being a correspondent external existence: we cannot certainly conceive in our minds a supreme power that is "the infinite" & from these two premises though we cannot say indeed that there is no such thing as a Supreme power yet I dont quite see how we can say that one does exist: it seems to me that we are simply landed in the Agnostic position & I suppose that in our quieter moments we most of us find that we are more or less agnostics. I dont think our religious "beliefs" will stand very much analysis. You will probably feel inclined to tear this up at all events I'll stop.
Yr friend
WBS.

Goultly 38

[first page of letter has not survived, usually Spencer dates his second pages but not in this instance, the letter has been put in sequence by the cataloguer on the basis of contents presumably]

.. such things from one point of view & that by no means the highest: their remarks would be simply jarring.

Thank you for sending me word about Sidgwick's book on Ethics I have bought and am now reading & enjoying it much. I am also endeavouring to wade through Bain. What with this work, Geology, Comp. Anat. & an Oxford Exam. this term my hands are quite full enough but sometimes it is quite a relief to have a roaring lot of work to do & I feel it to be so now. Moreover we are going to give a conversazione this term in the Eights week that is the Science Club is & being Sec & Treas. *[insert]* paired in one *[end insert]* gives me plenty of work.

As to coming up to Oxford I shall be very glad to see you if you can only manage to do so: please consider this as an invit: in case you need to make use of one: I fancy I can easily put you up for a night in case of need & shall be only too glad to do so if you can stay. I hope your Mother is well & not suffering from the ill effects of house-painting. I ought to write to Emily but really cant just now: please give her my compliments.

May this turn out as we earnestly hope it may
Yr friend
W.B.S.

Goultly 39

[first page of letter has not survived, usually Spencer dates his second pages but not in this instance, the letter has been put in sequence by the cataloguer on the basis of contents presumably]

Alderley in fact your country is prettier than the greater part of ours it is still more thickly wooded with higher hills in the background.

This morning I was reading Ruskin's lecture which he delivered last term & which has just been published (actually at 1/- on very nice paper!) the English in parts is really beautiful & of course it adds considerably to the enjoyment to remember how he said it. He gives 3 more this term. Could you let me have Mr. Roleston's *[sic]* address – is it still Maison Chervico Menton?

My work gets on pretty well: Sidgwick is very enjoyable but very indefinite: he says nothing settled but talks in a general kind of way & it is very difficult to remember however much you may understand it whilst reading the book. I shall read Spencer's "Data of Ethics" as well but not the ethics in Bain [?]. What is your next work? Time is going very quickly & the next two or three years will probably make a good deal of difference to several of us: at all events I hope it will see one thing brought about which will make all the different to two lives.

Yr sincere friend
Baldwin

Goultly 40

[first page missing]

May 5. 83

the Prince of Wales here & everything passed off swimmingly even down to the shying of lump sugar onto the eads [*sic*] below my window. No end of persons such as Salisbury, Northcote, Northbrook, Cranbrook, etc were in view & as all had on their scarlet, crimson & gold gowns & hoods the sight was really fine.

My balcony come in well & after the ceremony like the Master of Balliol "I entertained a small party to luncheon". One man took a photo. from my rooms of the whole affair so I am rather hoping he may hand me one over.

This week Ruskin begins his lectures again on Modern English art the first next Saturday on "Burne-Jones & Watts".

I must stop as I see there is only just time to get to chapel & I want to "keep one" this aft. If possible I will write again during the week.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Could you drop me a card with the Doctors address.

Goultly 41

Coll. Exon

May 13. 83

Dear Howard,

I hope this may catch you before you set off on Monday – Where you are going to I have not the remotest idea – as your allusion to a trip with Cecil in your last note was the only thing which I had heard about it: however this being Whit. week I suppose you meant that you were off tomorrow & I hope you may have a very jolly trip wherever you go. The week has at all events started well with us for today is glorious enough to make up for the abominable weather with which we have lately been blest. Just now also the "eights" are on & Oxford is full of visitors: for 3 nights our boat has kept head & there is every prospect unless some accident happens of it remaining there if which should happen [*sic*] we shall doubtless let Oxford know that we are "head of the river" on Wednesday evening next: old chairs & such like lumber will be in great demand.

This week must have been a very quiet & uneventful one to you after the interest of the preceding one & now you have got to wait for the Autumn as patiently as you can: I wonder whether your people will notice your willingness to take messages or go errands in a general kind of way to Whalley Range which is a very broad term includes two or three houses. The Macs. asked me to go to Scotland this time but I cant as my time is pretty well cut out & what part I am not reading is not likely to be spent far away from one particular spot though the latter may perhaps be a somewhat moveable one: I hope to be home in 3 weeks that is on June 2 to remain at home all that month & then come up here in July & stay till the middle of August then go down to our people in Derbyshire for a fortnight or so whilst somebody is with them & then come up here in September for another hard grind till the London Exam. comes on in fact till Christmas. This is far from being one's beau-ideal of a 'long' but under the present circumstances it appears to be the best thing which I can do. Have you yet been over to Disley: I cant tell you exactly where to find their cottage save that you go up the Hill on the left after leaving the station: I hope to be able to tell you more about it in rather less than a month's time. They seem to enjoy it very much: I think it is very nice to go out into the country from town every evening & wherever I have to live shall try & manage to do this: one must keep though where your friends can get at you. Mackinder & I have just been having a long chat about what we intend to do in life: he will go in for a more or less public life & I fancy will do well: he has got good powers & plenty of go & self-confidence & some influential relations in London who can help him a good deal at the bar: I have given up all idea of doing anything in public & am going to be content with the more or less quiet life of a scientific man, knowing if possible some public people but living very quietly myself: you I suppose will be one of the big solicitors but really I always come back to think that after all the best thing is to have a really happy home.

Will you give my love to Cecil if you are going today & if this should reach you before starting. I hope you will have a very jolly trip.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goultly 42

Coll. Exon.

May 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 on in Physics: they make us take Exams. in most subjects before we can get to the real one for which we are working: it is not a very important one & i really did very badly principally through not having worked for it. I hope to scrape through as it is rather bad for a scholar to miss Exams. but I certainly shant if they score bad marks as I simply, & very foolishly, 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 horrors 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 moreover. I am glad you so much enjoyed your trip it must have been very jolly indeed: I wished yesterday I could have had Cecil & you in when a friend of mine who is in for Mods. recounted his experience of the Divinity paper: it was killing: we knew he was a safe plough as he is utterly ignorant of matters theological: they asked him who were Noë & Caiaphas the former he recognized was "the woman who had the issue of blood twelve years" the latter was one who "lied unto the Lord & was carried out dead"! I fancy these are somewhat makes up [sic] 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 lossing [sic] 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 retiring into his closet when he was giving alms". He really sent 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 taunts of the jibing mob addressed to the Christ on the Cross". There were lots of other mistakes but I cant tell you more 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 conversazione on Friday: we shall have most of the great guns of Oxford there & I think it will be a success: I am rather coming in for autographs as replies to invitations all come to me being Sec. it gives me plenty to do & I shall be hard at it till Friday evening & then if our Dons be sensible it will be good bye 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 Femm's [?] 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 dont want me to I wont 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 [sic] before we meet which will be I hope next Saturday. I got her short note with yours

Good bye till we meet which will be when? Perhaps we can make some arrangement

Yr friend

B.

I dont quite know when I shall be at Disley but Lillie will be with us next week end

Goulty 43

July 21. 83

Dear Howard,

I got your extra letter & its enclosure all right & was glad to hear that you had at all events a little chance: I dont know how much the two ms. talked but hope you wont have any annoyance at all: certainly you are not likely to have any hindrances put in your way but I should think it will rather act in an opposite direction. I was interested to hear of Fred Edminson's engagement he will now be looking out I suppose for some place in the reading

line: it will not be very long before all our "set" have begun life in earnest now – for myself I shall be only too glad when this takes place.

This week end I have been rather busy: yesterday I was at lunch at our Rector's: [18] though they occupy of course a good high position I should hardly call them 'intellectual' but in the evening I dined with two of our dons: one of them - Byewater [*sic*] - is supposed to be about the cleverest don in Oxford & is the one Oxford man whom German scholars quote & look up to being supposed to be the only man in Oxford who understands Aristotle. It is really jolly to sit & listen to these men talking & I am by no means sorry to have come up this 'long' if it has only given me the chance of seeing one or two of these. Today I have been for lunch with another don who lives here & who is a great traveller though a most mild & meek looking person. I got launched with the Mrs Don (who is devoted to one beastly little dog & two lovely Persian cats (named Bobbie & Minos!)) in a vivesectionist argument as she is in mortal terror of the disappearance of all pet dogs now we have a new professor of physiology. The anti-vivesectionists nearly succeeded in throwing out in convocation the bill giving Burden-Sanderson the running of his new labs, it only passed by 3 votes out of nearly 200! I shall be delighted to see you if you can only call here so dont disappoint me now you have raised my hopes. Let me know the exact day when you can. I will get a bed for the night. I fear Mr, Robertson wont be able to call here on his way to Llanwrst as he has been very bad again. Lillie tells me she expects you over there next Friday evening so I hope you'll go

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goultly 44

Coll Exon.

Nov. 10. 83

Dear Howard,

I had not time to send you and last night that Mackinder & myself are both ploughed. It is rather vexing but what we really expected after seeing the papers.

Our time has been too much taken up with other things apart from which we have had no help whatsoever in two of our subjects & in one case not been even able for want of apparatus to do the greater part of our practical work while the other we only settled to take up after Christmas.

We have simply been trying to do too much as of course our own subject which we are reading here has necessitated our reading it by far the greater part of the time if we were to keep up with the other men who were spending their whole time at it. Of course once through we should probably have come off well in 'honours'.

However it is over & I am now beginning to read for an exam. here in Chemistry wh. comes off in less than a fortnight & for which I must read hard not having begun yet.

This aft. I have been to a lecture of Ruskin's nominally on Tenniel & Leech but really on wood cuts & things in general. I did not care for it very much as he got back rather into his egotistic style & was down on everybody. He styled Punch "that immortal Periodical" & spoke of the "demonical beauty" of certain objects: he also simply raved against the wilderness of "those buildings erected by the University for the torture of her sons" + [*insert*] + ie the new schools [*end insert*] - buildings over which a huge sum had been wasted whilst her art Professor was left to languish in a garret.

Whilst praising highly Du Maurier's [*insert*] drawing [*end insert*] he blamed him for his utter neglect of the Merchant classes of England. The lecture was of course packed & I was unfortunately almost too far off to hear. Next week we have another on "The Hillside - Robson & Copley Fielding". I shall be very thankful when this term is done - we have got 4 weeks yet. Doubtless you enjoyed last week end much: did you tell me you were going for if so I had not realized it & did not really know till Monday. I really feel too utterly inane to write so will stop: lately at night some of us have been holding discussions which perhaps dont allow us to have as much sleep as is good for us

Yr friend B

Goultly 45

Nov. 17. 83

Dear Howard,

Many thanks for your last long and interesting letter: my letters to you are always I fear exactly the reverse of interesting: I am unfortunately obliged to write between 5 & 7 after

having been working hard all day & just before going to dinner which is with myself the time when there is very little left in my head of any description. This evening I am feeling uncomfortable by reason of my face being considerably lopsided owing to a general kind of tooth-ache: It is necessary to put forth considerable energy to keep it from tumbling over on one side. However an unsymmetrical face has its advantages in the way of calling forth sympathy just when it is not much wanted.

Yesterday evening I saw Allie: people away from him can scarcely imagine how easy it is to let a week or two slip by without seeing each other in the case of two such as Allie & myself > he seems all right & complains of not being able to read hard which is about the best thing which could happen to him.

We shall probably have breakfast together tomorrow morning. Sundays are usually when there is no special exam. on hand quiet days which I enjoy much. It may be selfish but it is a relief to have one day in the week to yourself & I intend as far as possible to keep it apart from any kind of work throughout my life. I see more & more clearly that for most of us our main work will have to be what is called secular work. We shall have to throw ourselves into the work of trying to do something to alter the condition of the great lower masses in our towns. Have you been reading anything at all of the great amount of writing which has been published lately on the question. Sims letter in the Daily News on "Horrible London" were quite worth reading & doubtless you will have seen them. I want to read "the cry of outcast London" but have not had time yet. Possibly without realizing it we may be drifting on to a great revolution & certainly it will do we younger ones no harm to think of these things & get ready to work for it will very soon come to be our turn to be leaders.

I should be very glad indeed of a little more time to read & think about these things but I am hoping that this will come in a year or two & meanwhile have to be content with getting very partial view on subjects from odd scraps. We have been having some most lovely days here lately – just a slight mist in the mornings (that is about 8 I cant speak for anything earlier) & then beautiful clear blue sky.

Mr. Jonyson [?] who was with me last week end said the clear atmosphere reminded him more of Paris than anything he had seen since his return to England. Certainly without being at all sentimental it was impossible not to be struck with the beauty of the place in the moonlight.

It has often made me want to sit down & draw but I have piously refrained from so doing & gone away to cram up chemical formulae which of all occupations is about the one which I most abhor.

I was very glad to hear from London that I was ploughed in one thing but not weak in another. Of course that one thing is the Moral Science. It has made me determined to read quietly on about an hour a day to make it such a cram as it was this year & then to settle down next summer again to a hard read at the same subjects again. Now I must close, three of us are about to indulge in what we call a "smug tea" as Hall gets rather stale after a few weeks.

Please remember me to your Father & Mother

Yr friend

WBS

Goulty 46

Please give my love to Emily I will write her very soon

Nov. 25. 83

Dear Howard,

We are in the midst of a wet Sunday which is an event not much appreciated here especially by those such as myself who look forward to it as a day on which to be out in the fresh air a little. I am much looking forward to this term coming to an end for though perfectly well in general health I feel rather muddled & have acquired the power of rapidly forgetting anything I read.

Of course you will have heard of poor Harry's missing his London Exam. I cant understand it except on the ground that he has got "stale" through over-reading which is most probably the real state of things. I think if he could get a change for a little & the chance of pulling himself together again & then starting once more that he would probably be all right. It will be very depressing to him I fear but I dont think many people knew that he was in for it ~~yet~~ which is a good thing. We always used to credit him with a very fair power of getting up Exam. work & I believe he has it notwithstanding these failures but he is a kind of fellow who gets "sluggish" & heavy if he does not get exercise.

Just now we are having two or three subjects occupying attention here & I wish that my time was freer so as to take more interest in them. In the first place 'vivisection' is on - there is a somewhat strong opposition to any of it under any form (of course the very name of vivisection rather begs the question) being carried on in any varsity building. There is a debate on at the Union next Thursday: a Balliol man moves that the house disapproves of its being practised in any University building. Mackinder will open the opposition to him & there will probably be a good debate. For some things I wish that I had begun speaking at the Union but to do anything there takes up too much time especially as I am trying to get through my course in a year less than the usual time.

Besides this the great subject of the day here or the one which is going to be the great one is the social question - what is to be done with & for the lower classes.

Oxford seems to be once more coming to the front & though at present it is merely being talked about in every college & lectured about we shall have before long some great movement & the best of it is that it is coming in our time & that we shall be able to do our share in the work. Have you seen anything of what is called the "University Settlements" idea. This is in the main that 'varsity men (perhaps belonging to one college or to various colleges) should form a kind of settlement that is that a place should be taken in some poor part of one of our great towns such as the East End of London with Lecture & class rooms & that it should be under the charge of some older men & should be made the centre of work of various kinds: 'varsity men would be the workers not permanent ones necessarily but the aim would be for them to undertake for a longer or shorter time work for which they were fitted - such things as teaching or lecturing or acting or singing or almost anything. They would go about & amongst the people & try to get to understand them & their needs & if possible to give them in their lives what Matthew Arnold would call "sweetness & light". It is really a modified form of Socialism & is indeed almost known by that name here. Of course such a scheme as this would have to be much modified before being made practically useful but the very fact of such things being discussed as earnestly as they are shows the deep interest that is being awakened in them & that we shall yet see Oxford at the head of a new & this time a social movement. To a certain extent it must be unconnected with what would ordinarily be called 'religious' object & might perhaps on this ground meet with opposition from many though of course it would really be anything but opposed to real religion: at all events it would be distinctly unsectarian as its leaders are & would be most probably outside the church that is hold no position in this.

I find that my time is up as I have to read in chapel this evening so must close at once

Yr friend

WBS

Goultly 47

Feb. 4. 84

Dear Howard,

I have just got time to send you a few lines before going to Hall. Mackinder & myself have just come from a lecture by Tylor (author of Primitive Culture) whose name I daresay you will know on "The arts of civilization." He has been dealing with palaeo & neolithic implements: perhaps the most interesting part is the practical when he sits down & shows how these men actually made their implements or at least how they can be made.

I have just discovered Leonard gazing in an abstracted manner into space sitting opposite to me but I cant catch his eye.

There is a great deal in the way of general literature which one would like to read but cannot possibly do with exams on.

In addition to my ordinary work I am just doing a little original investigation if it may be dignified by any such names it only concerns what in ordinary language would be called a little bug. It is strange how in working at science you get to regard little things as being of great importance at all events for the time being & there is some danger in giving one's life to such work that details will become a ruling passion. Still Englishmen appear to be much less liable to being possessed by such ideas than do Germans more especially.

Tomorrow the old fight of vivisection is being reviewed here when the 'anti' people will do their best to prevent the raising of money to build Prof. Sandersons lab. There seems to be more chance of them succeeding unfortunately as numerous country parsons have been whipped up for the occasion. I trust it wont be many years before Goldwin Smith's idea of only letting Honors [*sic*] men go on for their MA & thus obtain a vote is carried out. Pass Men ought at all

event to have a further exam. for the M.A. just as at Victoria.
Last week we had Hyndman & Morris lecturing here on "Constructive Socialism": of course they did not meet with very much sympathy but the people & men in the Varsity are quite willing to discuss matters fairly. Still among those who own or will own property such a scheme is hardly likely to find favour. Their plan seems to be to allow present holders to keep property until death when it passes to the state: at all events they would prevent the accumulation by individuals of such capital as is now in the hands of the wealthy classes. They must I suppose [incline?] to an extreme to attract attention & Hyndman distinctly states that their present object is to excite discontent among the lower classes for as he says until such discontent is aroused nothing will be done.
Of course these people are aiming at an end which could only be achieved & perpetuated under ideal circumstances which neither have or probably ever will have existed: still it is absurd to try & hush up the matter as such treatment would only lead to a sudden disturbance in some future time.
Injustice has been done in the past & doubtless will have to be done in the future to landowners before things are at all satisfactory.
The one point seems to me to be can we anyway alter our present state of competition which appears to rule everything: at the present time it does look as if one class were gaining happiness at the expense of another yet it is extremely difficult to see how a sudden confiscation of property ~~would~~ [insert] & [end insert] giving part of this to the one class would set matters right. I should like to see co-operation take the place of competition: there would be less profit for the masters & fewer large fortunes made but the conflict between labour and capital would fade away & the general happiness could decidedly increase.
George is I hear coming to stay with the Max Mullers next week in Oxford & so he may perhaps lecture.
Now I must close. Please give my love to Emily to whom I will write as soon as I can but time is short & I spend all odd times in reading divinity worse luck.
Thank you for sending the law notices to Lillie: she has gone to Bristol today to stay with friends & wont be in Woodley till nearly Easter.
W.B.S.

Goulty 48

Feb. 12.84

I quite forgot about writing to you yesterday aft. being at a lecture from 5-6 & then your note came.

I am very sorry indeed to hear the sad news about Mr Lea. It will indeed be a blow to poor Frank & I dont quite know what he will do. It seems very sudden indeed as I did not even know that he was ill: of course you cant tell how the girls will be left but I trust there is no danger of there not being enough to keep them as they would find very great difficulty in keeping themselves.

As to Saturday I shall be very glad to see you & wish it was possible to offer you a bed but unfortunately I cant do that as no one is down.

May not offer you half of mine as I could do if not in college: but be sure & come & I will meet you at the station: as to fares it makes no difference I think breaking the journey here or very little: whether they would let you come out with a through ticket I dont know but hardly think they would. I gave Allie your & Emily's notes this morning.

The debate in convocation last week on vivisection was very interesting & quite contrary to expectation we won by a large majority. Of course interest centred on the question of vivisection but this question was made far more prominent than it had any right to be since the money was simply voted to build new physiological schools with: Prof Burdon Sanderson neither has nor will have the license giving him power to vivisect before students. He can only do it for his own private investigations & then only under anaesthetics. Most opposition to so-called vivisection arises from people not understanding the difference between the English and the continental method: doubtless some scientists would not be sorry to adopt the latter in England but then they cant & I hope never will be able to.

Will you please remember me to the meeting tomorrow night if you are there.

Yr

WBS

Goulty 49

Feb. 18.84

Dear Howard,

I was sorry to get your card saying you were not coming on Saturday: it is I suppose a chancery case & such (judging from Bleak House principally) are liable to be put off in most inexplicable ways.

However I shall be glad to see you for a few hours when you do come & only wish that I could offer you a bed but as there is not one I cannot very well.

Unfortunately trains are considerably, awkward between here & Cambridge the last leave at 4.30 & gets there at 8.15: this of course stops at every mortal station & the ride would be very exciting. It seems to be the usual time for trains to take moreover. What will you do? In the first place it gives you very little time indeed here: lunch would be ready in my rooms as soon as you got in but that could only give us about 1 1/2 hrs after it was over. Could you not possibly come up earlier in the morning or is there no earlier train. On the L & NW I see that one leaves A.E. at 7.49 & gets to Oxford at 1.35. It is far more convenient to come by L & N.W. if there is a decent train as this is the station from wh. you will have to go to Cambridge & so any luggage can be left there.

I have just come from another of Tylor's lectures on primitive culture: he has been dealing with the question of order of sequence of stone bronze & iron & has himself arrived at the opinion that in a great many cases at all events the bronze did not precede the iron in the way in which it is ordinarily supposed to have done: however I cant say that I quite see the face of his arguments very clearly which may be due in part to being prejudiced beforehand.

As you say we cannot always have exactly what we want: you certainly seem very philosophically to have come to the conclusion that such is best though it sounds rather like 'sour-grapes'. I should very much have liked to have run over to Bristol where Lillie is staying just now but have in which I consider in most praiseworthy way not done so. It is much the best not to break into the term for it is quite short enough as it is. Saturday was the half-way day.

In haste W.B.S.

Goulty 50

May 14. 84

Dear Howard,

I came in to write to you earlier in the day but feeling even more empty-headed than usual put it off for a little. Our 'schools' are at last definitely fixed of at a date - June 5 - which is some 10 days earlier than we had expected. On the whole I am glad as 10 days reading wont make much difference in an Oxford exam. where beyond a certain point of necessary knowledge it is not mere facts which pay. That this is the case is rather a blessing for myself as I have given a great deal too little time to work directly for the schools. I am one of those fortunate or rather unfortunate persons who is 'supposed to get a first only being better acquainted than they can possibly be with my mental acquirements & deficiencies I must confess to feeling very far indeed from safe & a second though disappointing is quite on the cards.

However 4 weeks today the result will be out & may the powers be propitious as [*illegible, looks like hole* or note] Norbreck near Blackpool there is neither scenery nor sea nor anything except 'Uncle Toms Cabin' if you know that place on one side & the chimneys & red brick cottages of Fleetwood on the other.

Summer seems to be coming ~~on~~ very rapidly: here we are of course in full leaf & everything is just beautiful: all Sunday till 11.30 p.m. I was out on the balcony of my room enjoying being quiet & reading immensely. Tomorrow our "Eights" commence: Exeter is of course head with very fair prospects of remaining there for yet another year if which event should take place then next Wed evening when all is over we shall have just a slight row in college.

Will you please thank Emily for her letter to which perhaps she will excuse the delay in answering as I am getting busier & busier.

Despite 'Schools' so near this has been & is being about the most enjoyable term in Oxford: there is a strange kind of feeling about a summer term here which nothing else causes. Now I must get to reading.

Yr sincere friend

W.B.S.

Australians tomorrow: woe be unto us: our "fresh men" can apparently easily beat the 'eleven'.

Goulty 51

May 22. 84

Dear Howard,

I am very surprised to find that Thursday evening has come before I have written to you but please excuse me as the week has been as exciting as well as very busy one.

In the first place the Australian match was a great score. Of course all the men went & got drunk & perfectly out of form & made a poor show against the weak Gentlemen's team which they ought easily to have smashed. At one period it looked almost as if Whitby & Bastard were going to pull the match off. The latter of course has never more than 0 before & every hit he made was loudly cheered. The two got settled & pulled the score from 190 to 135 & then lunch came on & of course the first ball after this settled them. Lancashire is on next week. However I have but very little time in wh. to go to matches only the ground is next door to the museum & I look in occasionally. I got lots of exercise however at tennis 3 or 4 afts a week. [missing page?] an Oxford mob which amused itself with smashing all windows which could be reached with stones. On the whole it was disgusting: there is something rather comic about a drunken man when he reaches a certain state but it soon gets sickening & I am in no hurry for another such riot to arise.

This morning when daylight came the college fairly looked a wreck though now that the rubbish has been carted away things are getting back more to their normal state. You ought to be in such a riot to understand what we mean by a "ragging".

Tomorrow evening we give a concert which will probably be rather good especially the refreshments in the interval which is passed in the fellows' gardens illuminated with Chinese lanterns.

As the time draws near I got very anxious about my Schools but can only wait the result as quietly as possible.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goulty 52

June 13. 84

Dear Howard

The list is just out & I am very glad to say I have got a first. I had the most enjoyable viva today as Moseley & Sayce simply congratulated me on the "excellence of my work" instead of plying questions. This which is very seldom done together with the fact that I am only the third man who has ever got a first at the end of his third year in Biology makes it a satisfactory ending up here.

However I shall be up next terms as Moseley has offered me a little work to do & also I shall endeavour to get 'pups' to coach to eke out any little store of cash.

I have only a few minutes in which to write so must stop.

Please remember me to Mr & Mrs Goulty & also to Miss E. I am coming down tomorrow & so may see you soon.

Yr WBS

Goulty 53

Early Colne

Essex

Dec 7 84

Dear Howard,

The remembrance of my wickedness almost overpowers me: I have not written since we met: what with almost more work in Oxford than I could get through & with having to come down suddenly to meet Norman who you will have heard is in England again – my letter writing time has been almost nil. A day or two after you had been with us I heard from home asking if I could go & meet Norman in town as he was coming back from the Cape: negotiations on this point have been passing between the Cape & home for a month or two & the result was his somewhat hasty return. I had to come down before term was over which made me specially busy in endeavouring to cram into three days a fortnight's work. Also the day before leaving was the date of our Science Conversaz. & I spent no less than 16 hours of last Tues. in getting the Museum ready & notices posted up etc. For a change such work is rather enjoyable but about 1 a.m. for four hours we waited watching in a bitterly cold wind for the red & black funnel of the Cu... [illegible] boats to round the corner of the river. When at last it did appear we had another hour to wait while the tedious process of "docking", which is no very

easy matter in the case of a large boat, was completed.

After just seeing Norman, Piggott & Dean left for the City & Norman & I spent yet some more miserable time in getting through the customs where they are more strict than I had imagined as with great thoughtfulness they emptied out & turned over the contents of every box.

This ordeal over we came down here for a few days & on Wed. shall go up to town again & then on home which I shall be glad to reach.

Just before coming down Prof Moseley whose assistant is leaving at Easter offered me the latter's post which I was only too glad to accept, so now I shall most likely be in Oxford for a year or two longer waiting till something better offers itself & getting at all events very good practise in the meantime. I shall have to superintend the mens work in the laboratory & give courses of lectures as well

Perhaps before very long I shall see you in Manchester.

I suppose nothing is yet settled with regard to your own course. I have not seen the honour list if it is yet published.

Yr

W.B.S.

Goulty 54

I hope Emily is not at all poorly: the Macs. told us yesterday she was "feverish" whatever this may mean

Whalley Range

Jan. 19. 85

Dear Howard,

Not feeling quite sure as to your whereabouts this is going to Alderley.

You may be surprised to see that I am yet in Manchester but ~~the~~ since seeing you I have come to the conclusion o stay here at all events a week or two longer – how much more depends on what the Exeter people say with regard to my scholarship: I have written asking or rather suggesting that they should keep it on just as if I were in Oxford but perhaps they wont see it in the same light.

I trust you were kind enough to excuse my dilatoriness in not writing to you till so late about going up but I was so undecided till the end that I did not know. My eyes have been troubling me a good deal lately & it is rather important to keep them in a good state & besides this I want to get fresh for Easter after which my real work begins in Oxford—hence my laziness now.

At the present moment I am at Woodley having just come here from home. The last few days I have been working at Owens with Marshall or rather drawing large diagrams with him. He is giving a series of Museum lectures soon & is in need of illustrations: it is rather enjoyable but as he begins at one end & I at the other the union in the middle is productive of some anxiety. After all there is a spirit of work at Owens which is really refreshing after the rather too easy-going feeling which exists at Oxford – not that we are especially lazy there only one always feels that real enthusiasm for work is wanting & at Owens with all its social wants & drawbacks this does exist. Perhaps the best thing is a mixture of both places & some of us are fortunately in a position to have this. I suppose you wont have heard of anything yet & am afraid that Father cant do anything much more in Manchester now.

Yrs W.B.S.

Goulty 55

Whalley Range

Jan 29. 85

Dear Howard,

We have been very sorry indeed to hear only yesterday that your people have been so bad in a general way lately but I hope they are all right again: someway we had heard nothing about it till a note came from Polly saying that they were getting better.

I shall get over to Alderley for an hour or so in a day or two when Emily is well enough to "receive friends".

Perhaps you may be surprised to see I am yet in Manchester but I dont intend going up to Oxford for a week or two yet – probably not till half term. Not that I am bad in the least only somehow I dont feel fit for hard work as a very few hours continuous work makes me feel fit for nothing. Of course I am doing a certain amount now spending the day indeed at Owens Marshall & I are doing a little together which we may publish if only I cant get him to believe a

certain thing which had he seen for himself he could have believed at once, but it is infinitely more difficult to persuade anyone that a certain fact is a fact than for the person to persuade himself [*insert*] from his own observations [*end insert*] which is rather complicated but perhaps you may understand.

I hope your mission has been a successful one at Brighton: doubtless it will be completed before very long.

Mother & Father & I were talking about what you were going to do last night & Father suggested the following plan should nothing else turn up, as Father seems to think the chances of getting a place rather small, might perhaps work.

Arnold Simnell who of course you know & as yet has got nothing: he is a fellow of very good ability though very quiet & Father suggests that you two should go together & start as solicitors: at all events you would be doing as much as in a place in an office.

You would not be utterly devoid of interest Father could give you a little work & doubtless persuade others to do the same & Mr Simnell could do this also while your Father might be able to give or get you something as well.

I don't see why you should not have as much chance of getting on as Holt or Schon [?] & of course the start will be hard wherever you make it.

Father spoke of the idea to Mr Simnell a few days ago – just suggesting it & of course saying that you had not been spoken to.

Anyhow would you come to tea here next Tuesday: Simnell will be here & you could talk over the matter.

I fancy that conveyancing is the chief thing at which Simnell has worked.

If you can't come then would you send me word & we would arrange some other evening:

Father is asking Simnell & if he can't come then I will let you know & will write to A.E.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 56

9 Museum Terrace

Feb 22. 85

Dear Howard,

I was glad of your intimation concerning Mr. Reid as his telegram did not come till considerably later: thank you for the same.

For a few weeks – that is till after Easter the above is my address & then will change to 5 instead of 9. My present rooms are very small but will do pro tem. I am living somewhat out of the general run of lodgings that is a good distance from college but of course the first [*insert*] consideration [*end insert*] now is for me to be near the Museum: in fact there is in my immediate neighbourhood a regular colony of science men & we are not at all too far away from humanity to suffer from having too much of one kind of society. It is also close to Keble which I was forgetting to count as a college.

I have already got two "pups" which is two more than I expected to have seeing it is now the middle of term: one is a "she": on the whole I would prefer not taking the latter since you cannot coach her without the annoyance of having a 'chaperon' in the room at the same time & to have some one who you are not speaking to but who you feel is listening to all you say is not at all pleasant. I shall probably get about 5 pups every year or something like this which will mean an addition of £50 to my income & also a certain amount of hard work.

I trust that Mrs Goulty is improving though the cold of the last two days which have been delightfully clear must rather have tried her.

B.

Goulty 57

March 8.85

Dear Howard,

On Monday last Stuart Reid came up & by some unfortunate mistake I missed him at the station & so we did not meet till nearly 3 & as he had to catch a train on about 4 our time was extremely limited: however we did a rush & succeeded in catching what of course could only be a mere glimpse of the outsides of different colleges. Away from the pulpit he is certainly a nice man whatever he may be in it.

By now it is possible that you may have heard something definite about a place: I hope you will have done so.

Term ends on Sat. next & as my work here begins on March 25 (a fortnight next Wed.) I shall come down at once for a few days. Indeed I hope to be at Woodley next week end & shall go on home on Monday or Tuesday & then call in at Woodley on my way back here the following week-end.

I would have preferred to have had the vac. at the end only I cant well be managed. I must take things as they come. This means of course that I shall spend Easter itself here. In vac. times I have a good deal of Museum work to do - arranging the zoological collections etc - & this vac I shall be especially busy in getting ready for my lectures next term. Lecturing will be a new experience more especially as some of the men in my lectures will be of my own standing.

We shall meet of course in Manchester: I will let you know when I am down & perhaps you could come over & spend the night at Whalley Range we could go and see Allie in the evening.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Please thank Emily for her note. Allie's was duly delivered.

I hope your Mother gets on well. We have had one most curious day in the middle of a week otherwise good. Snow & sleet & very cold.

Yesterday the 'Varsity sports were on nothing very exciting except a splendid 1/4 mile race & a not bad mile race also a "put" of 42 feet odd! This evening I am dining at High Table which is usually interesting.

On Tuesday there is a debate on in Convocation which promises to be good. Burdon Sanderson is asking for an annual sum of £500 to meet the expense of his new Physiology School. The vote, though extremely moderate in amount, is being strongly opposed by ante-vivisectionists. It has really nothing whatsoever to do with vivisection as this in no way enters into the teaching here.

B.

Goulty 58

March 18. 85

Can you come to tea tomorrow Thursday & spend the night with me. Cecil will be here to tea but the night will give us a chance of quiet & private

Yr

W.B.S.

M. Howard Goulty

Goulty 59

March 27. 85.

Dear Howard,

I was surprised on Tuesday to find myself going through Alderley Edge without stopping as I imagined that the train was a caller & accordingly made preparations to see you there but in vain.

It is hoping too much I fear to hope that you have been successful before this.

I am hard at work doing nothing principally but pretending to get ready for next term. The beginning is always slow but after a time doubtless I shall make more progress.

After seeing you on Thursday last I called at the Macs & had a good long chat with Mrs. Mac. ~~Ellie seemed very poorly indeed: some misguided "friend" had called the day before & stayed with her from 4 to 7 p.m. with most unfortunate results as of course she was perfectly tired out afterwards. I did not see her as she was up but not downstairs & too tired to see anyone. They are evidently going to give her a thorough rest & get her off to Scotland as quickly as possible.~~ [para crossed out but legible possibly by later hand]

I have see Allie a good deal today [sic] - breakfasting with him: he is reading hard - very -- & is also in good spirits. I should fancy his first is quite safe though of course he is equally sure of a third.

I hope your mother is getting on well - please remember me to her & also to Emily.

Yrs B

Goulty 60

Tell Emily I really will write soon

7 Ap. 85.

Dear Howard,

"Very little to tell you this week" may as well be my opening announcement: may it be followed up by as much as your epistle contained (not meant for sarcasm.)

Easter is over & has been a very quiet one with us: no one scarcely remains in Oxford save B... [*illegible*] & myself & we are of course a good deal together.

I am in my own rooms now but we feed together & work also as we find ourselves no hindrance mutually & both being biologically inclined we can discuss points ad lib. & derive thereby I hope mutual advantage.

He is an old Etonian & of course a first rate oar.

Coming into contact with public school men make one see more clearly than ever the very distinct advantage of a public school life & training. The men are more independent & self reliant someway & a freedom from humbug at least this characterizes the better class amongst them.

However I always have to come to the conclusion that the past cant be altered & the future lays before us to make of what we can. It is a real relief to be settled down to some definite work & to be really busy.

However the last two or three days I have been far from the latter. The Cohens (Julius & 3 sisters) are up & I have been with them somewhat. This morning they were at breakfast with us & tomorrow we are [*illegible*] a picnic to Nuneham. They return however on Thursday, then I shall return to the grind. I am glad to hear that your Mother does get on though it be but slowly. Please remember me to her.

yrs

WBS.

Goultly 61

26 Ap. 85.

Dear Howard,

I fear it is some time since you heard.

I have just been glancing over your last epistle & find it extremely political in its tendency. My own opinion just now is that to give in to Russia means certain war in a very few years when we are in a worse & they are in a far better position. To let them quietly take Herat seems to be about the maddest thing possible: further I believe that we are strong enough to insist on their withdrawing & failing this the last thing in the long run would be to have the question fought out now. I am very far from desiring war but think that our future peace & welfare depends upon our not giving in at the present time. There is I think not the slightest doubt that the liberals wont get in again in November: unfortunately the other party as no strong man capable of leading & in Cairns have just lost about their most powerful man. However a letter is scarcely the place for politics.

~~I was glad you saw somebody the other day & hope that by now the same is away North: this kind of weather will give her a chance of getting strong & also I hope your Mother.~~ [*para crossed out but legible possibly by later hand*]

Allie of course is back again but I have scarcely seen him having been very busy & specially so since term began.

My lecturing began on Thursday & is going on I think all [*illegible*]: at all events if no one else does I enjoy it which is perhaps a bad sign. I felt rather but only a little nervous during the first half minute but after that forgot all about the men & have not thought about them since. I never understood before how little a lecturer had any idea of who was listening or I might have taken advantage of the same to absent myself from sundry unwelcome lectures in the earlier part of my career here.

You will doubtless have seen that Ruskin has resigned & done so further in consequence of the so-called "vivisection" vote in Convocation at the end of last term. I think it is a foolish & almost a paltry thing to do but perhaps on the whole it will be a blessing as his second tenure of the Professorship here has not been at all a success. He has outlived his power.

Also Lowell the American minister is mentioned as a probable applicant for the Professorship of English literature now being found here: may he get it as he certainly will if he applies.

Oxford just now is beginning to look delightful: a few days very seldom make such a difference as the last few have done here: some of our trees are in full leaf & flower. This is the term of "eights" & "schools" & is hence an extremely active & interesting one & in fact it is so far the most enjoyable of the three & a thing quite unlike everything else. However my work does not leave me much time to get out & I have almost cut acquaintances save during

the parts of three afts. each week when I take exercise in the form of tennis & one Sabbaths which really come now as "Days of Rest" & are fully appreciated & are not spent within more walls than can be avoided

yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 62

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford]

9 May 85

Dear Howard,

My epistles come in with remarkable irregularity but perhaps you will excuse this.

I am sorry your trip to L'pool resulted in nothing & hope now that you will be able to set up for yourself with Simnell if possible. I suppose you would not think of going on alone.

Also I am sorry to hear that your Mother has not got much good from Lytham but hope she is better on the whole than when she went there.

I am very sorry that soon Alderley will know you no more: whatever it has been to yourselves it has been a very considerable source of pleasure to your friends: if possible I should very much indeed like a few days there this summer that is if it wont be too near your removing time. Also I have no idea as yet what time I shall be free. Perhaps late in June.

~~Of course I quite understand your inexplicitness concerning someone's illness though I am very sorry to hear what on [sic] say about it & shall be glad when she has really got away from M'chester [para crossed out but legible possibly by later hand]~~

Up here we are all in a shivering state due I suppose to the great number of icebergs on the Atlantic at the present time: I would that they could have made arrangements to travel S. via Behrings straits.

The ship canal so far seems rather a success – may it go on.

These wretched people here have knocked on the head our plan for relieving poor science men of one classical exam. which acts as a heavy drag on our work – only however by a majority of 1 which probably means that we shall be more fortunate next attempt.

Things are just delightful here as far as nature is concerned & fortunately for those who have not much time to spare we have not far to go in Oxford to get amongst trees.

Yrs W.B.S.

Goulty 63

May 16. 85

Dear Howard,

I was very confused indeed last Monday evening to hear that a friend wanted to see me & more surprised still to find that the friend was Mrs Mac. On Tuesday I went to lunch with them in Allie's rooms but as my spare time is extremely limited I saw nothing more of them – in fact Mrs Mac. went on to town on Tuesday aft. to the May meetings. ~~She told me that Ellie looked very poorly indeed & seemed very glad to have got her away to Scotland safely. I am very glad to hear that she wont come to them again till they are in the Lakes though I wish she could have had a still longer time perfectly away from the [illegible 2 words]. [para heavily crossed out but legible possibly by later hand]~~

On Thursday Allie & I tried once more to get some tennis but again met with our usual luck – a glorious thunderstorm.

He is reading very hard rather too hard I think but it will soon be over now

At the present moment the "eights" are on: Exeter has gone down one & will probably go down another before the end. My connection with the place is practically severed now &, save to a rowing-man by profession, even the eights pall after three or four years. However it is very nice indeed for the relatives & the river looks very pretty. Did I tell you Julie Cohen was coming up here to read in the vac. so I shall not be alone.

Yrs W.B.S.

Goulty 64

June 4. 95

Dear Howard,

I'm glad you so much enjoyed your Welsh trip: you must have had a grand trip in the hills.

You can scarcely imagine what I would give to be really amongst mountains at the present moment.

When it is warm here it really is simply suffocating today everybody has been going about gasping for breath.

Schools are on & the great heat really tells very much against men. One feels all limp & backboneless & perfectly incapable of working in any way.

I am delighted, in some ways to say that the terms work is practically over: this means that my own work is just about to commence. I am beginning some special original or quasi-original work which Ray Lankester suggested to me & the great man promised to publish for me. Hoyle seems to be getting through a good deal of work & ought to be dropping into a good place soon.

Surrey v. the 'Varsity has been on today: I saw a little of the play. The wicket of course is perfect but the scoring will show you how weak the 'Varsity are. A rather sudden change after last year.

In 10 days we shall be quite quiet here. Marcia & G. are coming up for a week I am glad to say & I shant go away till August or thereabouts. Julie Cohen comes up at the end of June. When do you actually begin

Yrs W.B.S.

Goulty 65

Will you tell Emily that there really is a letter in course of construction to her at least the envelope is directed.

June 21. 85

Dear Howard,

It must I fear be some considerable period since last I wrote to you but lately my writing has been very much interfered with partly by the "schools" here & partly by reason of my having had to run backwards & forwards to town during the last ten days.

We had some little time ago a very valuable anthropological collection given to the varsity & during the last week or two Profs Moseley & Tylor have been superintending the removal of this from S. Kensington & I have been with them. It is a good sized collection - some 15000 objects or so & as each of these requires labelling a considerable amount of work has to be done. The Government people are removing it from S. Kensington Museum but we cant trust them to do the labelling & so have to see to its being done. We three begin in the morning & go on till 5.30 with only a short break for lunch. However it is rather interesting if tiring, work: Tylor himself is of course the best anthropologist in England & a very nice man indeed: I have been much surprised however to find that though of course Comparative Anatomy is Moseley's subject yet he really knows considerably more concerning anthropology than even Tylor: in fact Moseley is a very remarkable man & when brought at all closely into contact with him you soon feel that he is no ordinary man. Of course he has been almost everywhere & this alone gives a man considerable power if only he keeps his eyes open. He was a favourite of Darwin's too though of course very much the latter's junior & like everybody else who ever came near him has the greatest reverence for his 'master'.

Moseley however is, I think, too narrow in some ways. He thinks science to be the training for everything for business or profession & even for politics. One evening we had a long talk on this subject & we agreed to differ. It is very difficult to get to know much of him as he is very reserved &, in a way, very shy.

Do you see that Marshall has got his F.R.S. I am very glad. Also Hartog has just stepped into a nice fellowship in Ireland of £400 per annum! Only two short years ago he was keeping, or attempting to keep, himself wife & family on a miserable pittance of £150 a year at Owens whilst now his income has suddenly risen to £900. As a science man he is perfectly incapable of reading or working but he is a very nice fellow indeed.

Politics as you say is unfit for epistolary purposes still I must say it was a relief to see the government go out: it gives them no end more chance at the general indeed I think it is the one thing & the only thing which will make them return to power safe. Let us pray that our enemy may succeed in forming a cabinet. At the same time I am more convinced than ever that the late government have blundered grievously abroad & without Gladstones huge power as a Rhetorician would long ago have gone to the dogs. As it is there is, as you say, little doubt that Parnell will rule the next Parliament.

Last Sunday I was obliged to be up in town & feeling very "fagged" on Sat. evening took train to Dorking & then walked out into Surrey some few miles to a lovely little village - Ockley -

near Leath Hil where I spent the Sunday. It was very hot & save during the evening I simply wandered lazily & quite alone under the trees. Monday morning I left at 4 a.m. & had a most delightful walk back to Dorking. All week I have been hard at it in town running down here once or twice. This week Marion & G. are coming up here so I shall stay in Oxford but after that again shall keep going backwards & forwards for some little time most likely. Please wish Polly success in her exam. from me. I hope your Mother is getting on well.
W.B.S.

Goulty 66

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford.]

July 2. 85

Dear Howard,

This is doubtless a rather interesting & in some ways anxious period to you & I trust that your start may be a fairly satisfactory – more than this I suppose it is useless for young lawyer to expect.

I am afraid that it will be some time 'ere I have the chance of seeing your office as it is not my intention to spend much time this summer in Manchester.

My movements will probably be as follows (1) a week or so with a friend in the Orkneys (2) a week with our people in Derbyshire (3) a week or two at Colne with Lillie (4) a week in Oxford with Mrs. B. Dick & someone else (5) a fortnight about with Cecil somewhere – along the Rhine & perhaps the Bavarian Highlands or the Harz Gebrige. This completely fills up my spare time save a few days which I want to get with you at A.E. if possible. Moseley just asked me to go to them where they (his family) are staying in Devonshire for a few days but I fear I cant. This start will stop you getting much vac. I fear but perhaps under the circumstances you wont mind this.

I am very sorry to hear that your Mother does not mend (excuse the expression) as rapidly as you could wish: I should have thought that the last fortnight of lovely weather would have exactly suited her if not too hot.

Julie Cohen & Gee are with me now the latter reads hard but Julia & I in the evenings always endeavour to get a little sketching done.

Very possibly Smithills will be with us this week end. Yesterday evening with Fairbrother & Words (up for a few days with the former – perhaps you know him) we formed an Owens party of 5 – not bad for a "long vac" in Oxford.

We have today finished bringing here the Pitt Rivers & now are looking forward to a little rest & quiet for private work

W.B.S.

Goulty 67

Oxford

July 21. 85.

Dear Howard,

When last I wrote to you I dare not think: also though probably you dont know it you very much to my relief missed writing a week – The first on record so I have felt justified in missing two weeks it is to be feared.

I dont in the least know when I can get Alderley in – my time is filled up so much more than I had any idea it would be.

Cecil & I had arranged at last for our long talked of walking trip together to come off & around this as a nucleus other things seem to have accumulated to such an extent that the whole circle of my vac. is filled. Tomorrow I go up to town on business & take the evening express (G.N.) to the North & by means of continuous travelling reach Thurso at 6 p.m. Thursday. From here I take steamer to the Orkneys-- to a small place near Stromness which again is near Kirkwall & if you can write next week my address up to Thursday will be

c/o Rev. D. Johnston

Harray

by Thurso

N.B.

This is an aged parson friend of mine who appeared mysteriously in our lecture room at the Museum once about two years ago.

He had been a varsity man in primaevaeval ages & had come up again from the Orkneys where he lives beyond the pale of civilization. I got to know him & ever since he went down he has been wanting me to go & see him so having to go as far North as Edinburgh to make arrangements about some publishing I determined to go on further. However it is a weary journey for only a short time & I am beginning to repent me of my rashness.

Various things combined have made me leave Oxford a little earlier than I had intended doing & the plan of my vac. is thus.

(1) Go up to Orkney for about a week returning (2) to our people on Aug 1 or 2 from them where they are staying at Cromford (3) come back to Oxford on Aug 12. with Mr. B Lillie & perhaps Dick. (4) after a week here go to Colne with Little & then (5) start of [*sic*] on Aug 27 with Cecil for a walking tour. We go along the Rhine to Bingen thence train to Constance from there walk all up the valley of the Vorder Rhine right into the heart of Switzerland. Cross the OberAlp pass & then descend the valley of the Reuss to the head of Lucerne steam lone this to Lucerne itself then walk across by the base of the Rigi to Lake Zug then across to Zurich & thence home. If we can manage it it will make a delightful trip. Cecil will thoroughly enjoy it & it will do him good: we shall try to do a certain amount of sketching & are not particularly likely to quarrel.

I am very sorry indeed to see that Allie has got a 2nd instead of a first in Mods. He ought most certainly to have got the latter & I fear that he must be disappointed to a certain extent. The last month has been very pleasant indeed with Julie here. I would we could have another. It is getting nigh until 12 so I must close.

I wish you had better news of your mother to send.

As to seeing you I dont think this can possibly take place till September. Where shall you be then?

W.B.S.

Goultly 68

Castle Top

Cromford

nr. Derby

Aug 6. 85

Dear Howard,

I am glad to hear you are so full of business & trust it may continue thus with you.

I came here last Saturday & being bank holiday trains were somewhat irregular in fact the Scotch express was 1 [*insert*] hr [*end insert*] 30 m late which brought me late into Derby & necessitated a walk from the latter to Cromford—a rather long Sabbath days journey. The worse of a place like the Orkneys is that it takes such a time to go there & back in fact I spent no less than 5 whole days & nights thus! On the return journey I called at Inverness for a few hours & strolled for a mile or two along that end of the Caledonian canal which is here very pretty indeed though not exactly fine. Inverness is rather a picturesque town. From there I travelled by night to Perth & so to Edinburgh where I did some business & after that was done Willie Hoyle & I went off to a place along the Forth where we met Mrs. W.E. with Mr & Mrs Bentham (née Sharp) who had gone on ahead by coach. We spent a delightful aft. here wandering along through the woods of Dalmeney [*sic*] House (Ld. Roseberry's [*sic*] place) until we came to the spot where they are now [*illegible*] building the Forth Bridge. This will be a huge structure & as ugly as big: however let us hope it will be safe. They are taking advantage of a small rock island in mid stream but even with this the bridge will be a great length on either side & has to be 150 feet above high water mark.

If safe it will be a great convenience in travelling north from Edinburgh & the experience of the Tay Bridge will surely make them build it with special care. One mathematician has already published a paper to show that the erection will be unsafe, which is cheering.

Edith looked pretty well & bright though Willie told me that she had been very poorly lately. I thought the latter looked rather depressed & am very sorry indeed for him.

I was very surprised to hear or rather to see the announcement in the papers of Leonards marriage: Willie Hoyle told me only on Saturday that it was not coming off for some little time yet (that is for a week or two he thought & I had heard nothing definite about it. He has kept it somewhat dark & doubtless it was a very quiet wedding. I am glad that he is settled down as it will do him more good than anything else.

This means I suppose that something definite has been done with regard to Old Trafford or he would scarcely have ventured on such a step.

Do you know that Fred Edminson is going as a master to Mill Hill? He is getting on well & this must be a very fair post in the teaching line.

I dont think our trip in September will at all hurt Cecil though I am so unhurt by most things myself that I shall have to remember that it is not the same with everyone else. As to Orkneys my risks there were chance ones & such as are not at all likely to occur along the Rhine. Dont you think he could stand an average walk of 20 miles per day? That is all we shall do when walking & for several days out of the time we shall be riding (steamer etc): I dont think the heat will be much greater there in September than it is in England in July. Anyway we will be careful & I am much obliged for your hints.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goultly 69

Cromford

Aug. 9. 85

Dear Howard,

I suppose you see that Dick is through part of his 1st M.B. that is he has only now got Physiology left which is no trouble to him & can be taken when he likes. Considering that Exams. are not at all his strong point he has done very well this year & along with his work keeps up an interest in athletics which is going him a great deal of good. I think he will do well & certainly has the advantage of good looks on his side.

I am glad that Harry is safely through his work – that is that he can practise, in fact he has now a double qualification the LS.A. & M.R.C.S.

Mumford also is through his 1st M.B. – his 4th shot! It is a real stiff exam.

I am at present reading a certain amount of Geology in view of the Burdett-Coutts scholarship at Oxford. However my time is extremely limited & I have even to beg off 4 days from my work to go in for the Exam. itself. I have undertaken a special amount of work these next two terms having taken charge of all the elementary work - lecturing & practical. However I really enjoy a good deal of work & am getting ready for it by taking a lengthy holiday now.

I shall be glad if you get up to Borrowdale – it will be your only vac. this year but under the circumstances perhaps you wont mind being busy.

I want you to make me a will only perhaps you will require to speak to me about it though it will be a simple affair. I have not very much to leave -- only my books which are of some small value & my insurance money (£500). I want to leave everything I have to Lillie. My Father is just lending me some money to publish a book with so if anything happened to me during the next two years (before wh. I cant possibly pay him back & perhaps not for 5 years or so) I should like him to be paid back out of this money.

By the end of this time perhaps I shall have more money but this would do for a will meanwhile if you can make out what I mean.

It is not very complicated only if I leave Lillie everything it may perhaps simplify things in the event of anything happening to me.

Lillie's real name of course is Mary Elizabeth Bowman. I wish you would act as my executor if you dont mind doing so & I suppose it is necessary to trouble some one in this way.

This is only a temporary affair of course but as soon as I get a definite post & settle down I shall insure heavily & make a proper will.

Excuse so much business but perhaps I shant see you for some time & I rather want this thing done at once.

From this you will see that I am going in a little for publishing.

It will be more than anything else a series of drawings with letterpress descriptive of them.

The subject is the "embryology of the chick" & the book will of course be simply for scientific students. Being full of illustrations it will be very expensive work & will sell I hope at 12/-.

Perhaps I shall publish it in 4 parts at 3/- each. it will cost me about £250-£300 to publish & I intend issuing 1000 copies.

Lankester and Moseley are both keen on my doing it & in fact it has been undertaken at their suggestion.

On Wed. Lillie, Mr. B. & myself go to Oxford for a week & then Lillie & I on to Colne.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goultly 70

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford.]
Sept 26. 85

Dear Howard,

Time has gone by so rapidly that it is already a fortnight since I was at Alderley. Since coming up I have been very busy indeed & have the prospect of a still busier time coming in about 3 weeks when term begins. First of all I am glad to learn from Leonard that Cecil is at school which means that things are all right in that direction for which I am most thankful.

~~I am sorry not to have had a [too heavily crossed out to be legible] but there was not much chance even had she shown a desire for this as all the younger members are always everywhere about in that house & there is no such thing as privacy. I only saw her for about 10 minutes.~~

~~Allie never will learn any thing in the way of moderation & will therefore always handicap himself to a certain extent: more of them can be particularly strong. [NB crossed out in blue, probably by someone other than Spencer]~~ Dugie seems determined to work harder than he has been doing. They make a great mistake in the grammar school as for ordinary boys the extra amount of scholarship examined in is far from compensating for the total loss of exercise which it entails: however I believe that at the present time they are agitating for a little extra time.

Would you send me as soon as possible your advice on the following. I have just had a note from Bland asking me to give them a paper at Chorlton Rd. (I suppose the young men's affair) on "evolution". Under the circumstances do you think I had better: it would come off not likely in March or perhaps Jan. I have not written to the Dr. yet but shall do when I can settle exactly what to say & under these circumstances I thought it would perhaps be rather strange my reading a paper on this subject which of course he cannot regard in an exactly favourable light. I shall be glad of your ideas on the subject: Of course stress of work would be plenty of excuse.

I am glad that your mother is better a little: it is getting very cold for her.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Gouly 71

5 Museum Terrace
Oxford.

Oct. 18. 85

Dear Howard,

I fear it is somewhat of a lengthy period since you heard from me. You are by now getting more settled at Bowdon & I trust your mother has got no arm from the change & will get great good though you can scarcely expect very much result from the change during the winter months.

Possibly you may tumble up against Fairbrother who lives at Holmlea Barrington Rd Altrincham.

From what he tells me I fancy that he meditates a move to Leipzig before very long for purposes of study: he was in for a Berkeley but has not for some reason got one – why I cant think as he got a 1st Class here & is a really good man at philosophy.

It is just possible that Wilkins who is strongly Cambridge has opposed him for I dont fancy that when at Owens Wilkins much cared for him. Of course I know nothing & this is conjecture but Owners of course is strongly Cambridge & this would go against an Oxford man – especially a philosophy candidate. However dont mention the affair to him unless he broaches the subject which is very possible.

You will I imagine be better satisfied at Dr. Maclennals [?] than at A.E. What think the Dissenter of the North of the "wave of Infidelity which is sweeping over the land." The noble Duke could scarcely have put his foot into it to better effect than when making this statement for [*insert*] read [*end insert*] with the context the remark can only be taken in part, at least, as referring to dissent.

I think also that Chamberlin's very strong assertion as to the impossibility of the question being settled by this parliament is striking: I for one, earnestly trust that it wont be brought forward just at present thinking it would do more harm than good & that other things want settling first: it must of course come in the course of 10 years or so but we dont want it just at

present.

As to your remarks some week or two ago on Evolution. If you admit that such has taken place I see no reason why you are not to believe that it has held good altogether. We have not the slightest evidence in favour of the theory that certain [*insert*] (i.e. several) [*end insert*] forms were created & from these others have been evolved.

It is not as though certain classes were marked off sharply from one another & could be imagined to be a special creation (or descended from specially created ancestors) apart from all other classes.

Throughout the whole of nature there is simply a great line of animal forms consisting of separate creatures such that when two at long intervals are compared striking differences are seen between them but when, say half a dozen contiguous ones are examined, they are seen to be connected in the closest manner with each other & in such a way that we can only account for their appearance on the supposition that the higher & more specialized has been evolved from the lower & more generalized one.

Ordinary observers only see those which are widely separated from each other & it is really impossible to realize the vastness of the cumulative evidence in favour of evolution (in animals) unless you are more or less intimately acquainted with the details of their structure. However for all practical purposes the evolution theory is now accepted as fact the differences lie in the question as to how evolution has been brought about. This of course is more correctly called Darwinism - the explanation of the causes - the theory itself has been proposed by several before his time though it was his collocation of facts which placed it on a firm basis.

No one as yet is one whit nearer to the solution of what after all is the main question - How came life on to the earth at all?

When once life or rather living organisms were present, it is impossible to deny that evolution took place & for all practical purposes it is as hard to explain the origin of one as of several living organisms though we have not the slightest evidence in favour of the creation of types while all the evidence at command is strongly against this theory.

I cannot see how anyone can get beyond the idea that at some time & some how "creation" of something took place & of course "creation" presupposes a "creator".

For myself I am quite inclined to admit that "living" must have arisen from "non-living" material: we find no element in "living" matter which is not also present in "non-living" material - the difference lies in the manner & solely in the manner in which the elements are combined together.

This may sound rather cold-blooded & is certainly a theory which would not meet with universal support but yet to me it seems to be a grand one.

External conditions are never the same for two however short periods of time & it may have been that (under certain conditions which may never recur again) ~~that~~ certain elements came together & combined to form, at first an extremely formless substance, endowed with a property which we term "life".

It may even be that there is more than one set of external conditions under which such a combination might take place though it is difficult to imagine this but at all events the material thus produced must have been of the simplest kind & not possessed of any definite organization it must in fact have been of a nature similar to that of the lowest living germs known to us.

However with such a theory as this I scarcely think you will be willing to agree. One thing, in closing, often strikes me & that is the possible identity of what you call - "the will of God" & we - "the laws of Nature":

Excuse the fragmentary nature of this letter - I have been writing ahead and there is not much sequence.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 72

[Anatomical Department,
Museum, [*insert*] 5 Museum Terrace [*end insert*]
Oxford.]

Oct 31. 85

Dear Howard,

What you say about your mother I am deeply sorry to hear: when I saw her for that few

minutes at Alderley it quite prepared me to hear very bad news from you at any time but now that it has come & that you seem to fear the worst I can hardly realize it & can only give you my deep sympathy.

No one of us can help you for just when you want to do most you can do least.

If you think you can would you give me love to your Mother.

You may feel sure that during the next few days I shall be thinking a good deal about you at Bowdon.

Your friend

Baldwin.

Goultly 73

Oxford

Nov. 13. 85

Dear Howard,

Your letter was not exactly a surprise as from what you have said we have been expecting the news which it contained almost daily during the past week or two but though it was not unexpected it is very hard to realize its truth & I can tell a little of what it must mean to you all at home.

Your Mother has been so kind to me that her loss comes very closely home & makes me too able to sympathize very deeply with you.

I am very glad now that you let me see her just for a minute at Alderley: she looked so white & thin that I was startled & had a fear even then that she might not be long with you but I did not realize that that would be our last time of meeting.

I cannot write about it & only wanted to let you know that I was sympathizing deeply with you & those at your house.

Yr friend

Baldwin.

Goultly 74

Oxford

Nov. 15. 85

Dear Howard,

I saw Allie this afternoon & from Mrs Macfadyen he had heard that your Mother's funeral was to be today.

I had thought at first of asking if you would be kind enough to let me be present if you were having any strangers at all but afterwards I was obliged to decide not to ask you simply because during this week or two I have undertaken a good deal of extra work which there is no one but myself to do & the men are relying on me.

I wish it were possible to have seen you but you will I think understand what it means.

Today will be painfully trying to you all I fear & there will be a good many who will be thinking about you this evening & wishing to give you help which is beyond their power to do.

Will you please remember me very kindly to your Father & sisters.

My thoughts today will often wander from Oxford to Bowdon

Your friend

Baldwin

Goultly 75

5 Mus. Terr.

Nov 23. 85

Dear Howard,

Your letter & its enclosed card came early in the week but it has been such a busy one that I have had no time for writing.

Life is very busy here while term lasts almost too much so if you have anything to do with teaching & I am getting rather tired of the term having had a good deal of extra work of different kinds: it will be a relief when it is done.

However Sunday comes really now as a "day of rest" on which except on rare occasions I do no work till evening & often very little then.

Did I tell you that during the last few weeks I have heard Drummond lecture two or three times: he has been staying in Oxford & is certainly a man of considerable power with a splendid voice & perfect command over it for speaking purposes. His speaking – that is what

he said – was practically exactly what is in his book: the latter will I think scarcely satisfy demands from the religious side any more than it will from the scientific though I think it is a good thing he has written it.

I cant quite make out the man himself there is something about him which is rather fascinating but yet you cannot help having a kind of suspicion when he is speaking that his enthusiasm is a little forced. He dresses somewhat carefully & elaborately.

Last Sunday evening I heard the Archbishop of York preach very sensibly on Stead that is the most important part of his sermon was on this subject.

My sympathies are pro-Steadian though seeing of course that he has blundered foolishly, but in feeling this way I am rather in opposition to the majority of men here who dont seem able to distinguish between what Stead & such a man as Valentine Baker did.

Allie has not been at all well lately having had neuralgia etc badly.

I shall be glad to see you at Christmas & trust that you are all keeping well.

Yr friend

W.B.S.

Goulty 76

29 Nov 85

5 Mus Terr

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 sense 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 results as Lib. 171 Conservat. 153) that the Tories must keep in power.

Personally I shall not very much object to it: they will put India in a proper state & get something like order in our foreign affairs & then quietly 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 muddle 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: knowing that the results are coming in at the Union I cant possibly stay in my rooms & 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 dont intend to tell my people at all). It is simply that Lincoln has decided to give a biology fellowship: unfortunately as far as I am concerned it goes by exam. & being the second only which has been awarded in biology in 25 years goodness knows who will be in for it: fortunately few of our men have 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 me doing any original work now so I shall only have 3 short papers to show. Ray Lankester is examining - he is noted as a very keen examiner but he is very friendly to me always.

Another exam. is enough to make me mad & especially one in which so much hangs: I cant even read for it & dont feel at all fit for one as the term is hard work. It comes on I believe just after the term so I shant get down probably till Xmas eve. The result is going to be out Jan. 8 Moseley tells me. I have as yet only heard the news privately &, though I have a good chance of it, dont intend to tell people more than can be helped as if beaten I should much prefer them to know nothing about it. You will understand. [*bottom of page cut away, whether by Spencer (or Goulty) or some later editor, it is clear it did contain something which someone preferred others not to read, other letters are also treated in the same way*]

I cant help hoping he will chose 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 knows all I cant help thinking he would think with us.

I am sorry to see the result of Altrincham.

W.B.S.

Today (Monday) I am going up as Moseley'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. Huxley makes his retiring speech & Stokes (the vice President) his inaugural one.

Goulty 77

10 Dec. 85

5 Mus. Terr.

Dear Howard,

I'm sorry you missed getting Barlow in for the Cheshire Div. but hope you may have better luck next time: anyway it does good to show the people that you are not too frightened to run a candidate. However very likely next elections will see the boroughs more liberal & the counties more conservative. The result in the latter this time is certainly startling.

Meanwhile may the Tories stick to office & be forced to carry on a little bit of liberal home legislation while at the same time they settle things somewhat abroad.

Salisbury is certainly a powerful man in the latter way & then a conservative cabinet would probably have the great advantage of being unanimous in any policy which is more than could be prognosticated concerning the liberal cabinet containing Goschen. Dilke. Chamberlin [*sic*] & Hartington! This latter mixture wont work particularly well I fancy & there is no doubt that the third named must soon be leader of a party which most certainly wont contain Goschen & his friends. The liberal party just now is scarcely homogeneous enough to work well against Tories & Irish combined.

I cant exactly say when I shall be down north but perhaps it may be very soon: I rather think of running away from here very soon being rather tired of work & yet having a lot which I must get through this Vac. The Lincoln affair does not come on till January (3rd week I fancy) so I shall read hard for it: in health I'm perfectly well but just in that condition mentally in which I cant do any real good so I shall most likely be down soon & begin to read after a day or two's vac.

I shall be glad to see you at Bowdon & very glad if you could arrange for Lillie to be there also. However I'll write before long. Lillie tells me that Rennie [?] [*insert*] Monteath [*end insert*] is staying at Woodly which is a good sign. I suppose nothing has been heard from Anna. Of course Mr. R. would agree with us if he knew but then he does not. Mr. Monteath has scarletina – hence Rennie's going to Woodly, they [*insert*] (the Monteaths) [*end insert*] asked that he might do so which looks well.

W.B.S.

Goulty 78

Oxford

Jan 28. 86

Dear Howard,

The exam. is over I am glad to say: it was only a short one from Monday till Wed. & not taking all the subjects I had no paper on Tuesday in fact I only took 3. The papers only lead 7 questions in & an essay: out of the former I did 2 1/2 - in one paper only 1. Whether the examiner will like this kind of work remains to be seen. I fancy that I was the best man in though my paper work was far from what I should like it to have been.

Possibly the result may be out this Friday aft. anyway I'll send you work as soon as possible & will even waste 6d on you if the result be a good one (i.e. favourable). I am at work again here now though I should have relished a day or two after the thing was over. An exam. done with always makes me feel more or less disinclined for renewed exertions.

Supposing I enter for this further thing in a month which is somewhat doubtful then - that over - I shall actually have had my very last exam. The thought is almost overpowering & indicates a state of feeling new to this generation & utterly unknown to our forefathers.

To change the ~~feelings~~ subject – things in London are rather interesting: I for one regret the turning out of Salisbury: it only means worse muddle: neither Hartington nor the Rads. (even with Gladstone) can possibly form a stable government & the latter is almost sure to come to smash trusty to & dependent as he would be on the Irish vote. I fancy after all that Salisbury is the man to tide us over the Greek affair & then the conservative must necessarily have brought in measures more or less liberal which the latter could have modified considerably & helped to pass. I fancy that before long we shall begin to want a little less pure party spirit in politics. It really seems as if the whig & radical split were to come before Gladstone goes & as if he were the lead the radicals: The liberal secession in that case will be a strong one – Hartington Foster – Goschen – James & Trevelyan at all events.

Why on earth does not Gladstone make Parnell Irish Secretary anyway it would be worth the trial & be a bold stroke: first of all we should have (suppose he accepted the place) a division in the Irish camp & this is exactly what is wanted.

Rumour & telegrams have it that the queen is to send for Hartington: I trust he will take office & work with the Conservatives behind him The united Conservative & liberal (moderate) vote is larger than any other single vote. By which you will see that I am more or less a moderate liberal.

Yrs

W.B.S.

I hope your Father keeps well: please remember me to him if he be at Bowdon. You will see of course that Dugie has missed ~~the~~ [insert] his [end insert] things here. He will probably have another shot elsewhere.

Goulty 79

Jan 31. 86

Dear Howard,

This is just a line to say that I believe I have got the Lincoln fellowship: the actual election by an old custom takes place in chapel tomorrow Monday morning but I have heard privately that the examiners have sent in my name only, so unless the dons have any special objection, which I believe not to be the case, I shall be elected. It is a relief & I am deeply grateful for the start which it gives me.

All through the last few years I have met with wonderful good fortune - first Owens then Exeter then this place with Moseley & lastly this affair & now I can only wish that you may meet with success as well

Yrs ever

W.B.S.

Goulty 80

Feb 9. 86

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford.]

Dear Howard,

Seeing that I have got some 50 letters or so to be acknowledged perhaps you wont be very angry if you only get a short one (as usual)

Thank you very much for your kindness in this matter: I am much relieved now that it is all over & I can be quiet for a little time though of course my work at the Museum is going on as usual. I've had a busy week - 6 dinners in succession which is rather too much of a good thing also a very bad cold so that I have begged off yesterday & this morning, having to expend a good part of my energy in attending to my olfactory again.

On Monday ~~evening~~ [insert] morning [end insert] I received at 8.30 a.m. an epistle from the Rector of Lincoln telling me I had just been elected & asking me to dine there the same evening to meet some of my fellow-fellows, which of course I did.

"Common room" is quite different from any other kind of life but they appear to be a very happy family at Lincoln & very unconventional. I hope it wont be long before you let me give you an evening in an Oxford "common room". Possibly you may'nt [sic] exactly know what this is however. It is only the room to which the dons adjourn after hall & where dessert is served & the flowing bowl goes round. In ancient days it was of course the delight of a fellows heart but such times are gone by & very little drinking & much more reading is now done.

Lincoln only has 10 fellows & only 7 of these in residence which I much prefer to a large number.

To change the subject: I fancy our ideas on politics are nearly similar: the late government made rather a fool of itself during the last day or two though even in this short time of office I think they have done well abroad. The Pall Mall last night contained an ideal cabinet which would be splendid if possible.

Many thanks again & best wishes for yourself

Yr fr

W.B.S.

Goulty 81

Feb. 27. 86

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford.]

Dear Howard,

I'm really very sorry to hear that you have got measles: apart from the disagreeableness of it this is just the time when you don't want to have it & I much fear that it must be a source of great inconvenience to you. I suppose amongst other things that you must necessarily drop this particular interesting case which you have on hand. Everybody seems to be very bad in different ways. Bourne is staying with me just now & has a terrible cough: he went straight on arriving in England from a coral island in the Indian ocean (which he has been investigating for the last few months) to a house where everyone has got Whooping Cough so I'm much afraid whether he may not degenerate into this. It is particularly awkward just now as he is wanted to coach the 'varsity eight. Being the best coach at the present time his loss will make a considerable difference.

I've just been a good long walk with the Moa (ie. Prof Moseley) & we have been speaking about my going abroad. I must if possible get into the tropics & get some idea of life outside England; also, as Prof Lankester wrote & told me, I ought to get some time away from teaching in which to work quietly & think. This fellowship of course gives me the chance of doing this & Moseley will keep open my place for me while I'm away, in fact he suggested doing so to me.

I trust that you are not really very bad though measles has the habit of making 'elderly people' uncomfortable: in childhood's days it serves beautifully as an excuse for a good long holiday counting in the [2 words illegible] must be allowed so as to get rid of infection.

Pollie [*sic*] will have a splendid time if only she gets out to Naples & I hope nothing will interfere with this.

Don't of course bother about writing

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 82

March 5. 86

[Anatomical Department,
Museum,
Oxford.]

Dear Howard,

Everybody seems to be in a bad way: Bourne has been & developed whooping cough at last. He has of course been living with me whilst in Oxford that is during the past fortnight so I hope I'm not in for it & don't feel at all alarmed on the subject.

He goes down on Monday & worse luck, will have to give up the coaching of the 'varsity eight which is somewhat serious seeing that they have been relying upon him.

I hope you are all right & disinfected by now: disinfection is a shorter process usually amongst "business"-men than school boys & the time of infection is not unnecessarily prolonged.

Have you heard from Mr Robertson yet.

I heard through Wells of Wadham [*letter ends here*]

Goulty 83

I don't quite know whether to wish you success in Cheshire. Gladstone must surely appeal to the country on Home Rule Anyway I think the Lords will be quite right in throwing it out on this plea.

March 18. 86

Oxford

Dear Howard,

I took you at your word & did not write during the exam - or previous to it very much I fear.

Thank goodness it is over & I must confess to feeling fagged having had more work altogether than I care for - that is more cramming work of the nature of the exam.

necessitated a huge cram seeing that I have only had a very short space in which to read. On the whole I have certainly done badly & unfortunately worst of all in my own subject & seeing that Moseley is one of the examiners it will run hard with me & I shall not in the least be surprised at missing it.

This evening I am enjoying chiefly the feeling of having put behind me my last exam. For 13 years I have ground pretty hard for exams of one kind & another: now comes the work of recovering from & shaking off the cramming system & setting down to some real earnest work. If they do nothing else exams certainly make you appreciate more fully the delights of real original work.

Firs of all comes my intended & begun work [*insert*] for publicity purposes [*end insert*] on the development of the chick - a book for teaching purposes & side by side with this work a hard study of French & German. I feel utterly ashamed of my complete ignorance of anything except my own subject & feel it still more keenly know that I am thrown in Lincoln common room into contact with men who in different ways really are scholars.

Common room life really is enjoyable & quite unlike - at all events in Lincoln - the ideas given of it in ordinary books in which it may be mentioned. However some day I hope you will see what it is like for yourself & be better able to judge of it. I go into rooms in Lincoln in about a week from now after which please address me at the college: though very shortly after this I intend to come down I was glad to see you were back at work & trust your case goes well - Allie I have scarcely seen lately having been too busy he does not know about the Burdett - nor does any one at Lincoln & wont do unless the result be good which is more than doubtful

Yrs

W.B.S

Goulty 84

March 20. 86

Dear Howard,

This is only a line to say I have missed the Burdett Coutts. Of course I'm sorry but not in the least surprised as it was not my kind of exam. & I have really had far too much to do this past year. Anyway no more exams. in this life.

Yrs in haste

W.B.S.

Goulty 85

May. 14. 86

Dear Howard,

Many apologies are due had we not agreed to drop such things though it is a rather one-sided advantage & arrangement. I have been very busy indeed with different things since coming up & am beginning to get settle [*sic*] down in my new quarters.

The rooms are comfortable enough save the bed room which is so small that I cant get room for a bath as well as a bad & have [*insert*] am [*end insert*] obliged to take the latter in my sitting room. The latter is curiously enough the nearest room to Exeter which is not 4 yards from my windows. It is a good size & I could make it very nice were I going to stay in it but it is only a temporary abode till my permanent rooms are ready. The latter will be very nice indeed & my only fear is that they will be noisy as the Turl is so narrow. I look out on to some old fashioned houses opposite & at the one end of the street is the Christopher Wren tower of All Saints & at the other Trinity College across the Broad.

It is a curious sensation being in college again & this time as a fellow.

I dine regularly in Hall of course at High table & much enjoy it. Most often only 3 or 4 dons are present & we chat quietly - as a general rule only on the topics of the day - "shop" being nominally barred though I introduce science to a certain extent. My occupation is quite foreign to that of every other fellow but I find them extremely nice. Also I am considerably the youngest in standing.

I am glad your Father is safely home again: you did not say whether he card much for the Dom at Köln. We that is Lillie Martin Mr & Mrs B. & I hope George are going to Switzerland for a short time this summer & to this I am considerably looking forward. I will endeavour to be better in future so forgive past omissions.

yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 86

May 25. 86

Dear Howard,

I have had a busy week once more & have been rather fagged. Dining out is enjoyable but I

find it rather tiring: on Wed. I was at a Christ Church 'fellows': a select party of only 6. The man himself is somewhat of an epicure & keen on his "best Burgundy" & '47 Port. I have quite given up all hope of being able to distinguish one kind of port from another & believe a great deal of connoisseur [sic] work is a fraud. At the dinner however there was one interesting man – a fellow of University Coll. who should have been fellow of Christ Church but was thrown out on account of his religious views. It was one of the last acts of Pusey's life to be carried down in a litter to vote against his election. I am afraid Pusey was somewhat narrow as far as one can hear. He & his party declined to subscribe to the memorial to Cranmore & Latimer put up here & when specially written to by the chairman of the committee saying that as the leaders of a distinct church party their subscription would be very welcome replied that they would be extremely happy to subscribe on one condition – that on the memorial should be inscribed "Ecclesia ignimbus Marnaius purgata"! A trifle cool. The memorial went up without their assistance.

On Sunday I was dining at New Coll. the best High table I have yet dined at. I had a long discussion after dinner in comm room with one of their chief dons on the subject of specialism maintaining that this was absolutely essential. Afterwards I had a tally with Sylvester the great mathematician whose name you may have heard. I feel dreadfully young & junior amongst these people but find them all extremely kind & as yet have not come across any Mark Pattisons to damp ones energies.

Fortunately as a science man one is allowed - even expected - to be energetic to a certain extent.

I have just come in also from a dinner at the Rectors.

It was rather a select party with Max Muller & Mrs & Miss. the Hon. Brodrick of Merton. Cannon [sic] Bright & a few others.

Fortunately at dinner I had charge of a niece of the Rectors a delightful girl & so much enjoyed what might have been a formidable meal I was much struck with the great hubbub of conversation which arose the moment we sat down & never ceased the whole evening: also it bore witness to the truth of the statement that general conversation is rare in England.

Everyone spoke to his or her neighbour with of course the exception of Merry who every now & then drew a number in very cleverly & then having brought people together for a little let them separate into pairs again.

I was much interested in watching & in talking to my neighbour.

After dinner Miss Max Muller sang Max M. accompanying her: he seems to play very well indeed. I shall gradually get to know people but have scarcely time enough to do this line of work in & further feel dreadfully young.

Excuse a letter full of this kind of thing but my ordinary work would be seen [sic] more uninteresting to you than this.

I am hard at work day & night on the lizard's eye & hope to make a good thing of it: I shall have a paper ready for the Royal Society before long now. I trust you will excuse my not writing but it is simply my work in this way & having to spend all my spare time in going out which prevents me doing more in the way of writing.

I hope you are all well at Bowdon please remember me to Emily

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goulty 87

[first page missing] June 12 86

[Lincoln College
Oxford]

My idea of Dill was [insert] that of [end insert] a man who dressed well & looked very refined & cultured which was not his appearance the other day. However breakfast is not a good time at which to judge.

Today Bodington the head of the Leeds College – an old Fellow here – has been in common room. Stroud & Smithells are of course at Leeds & both seem to be doing well in different ways the one socially & the other scientifically which is just what might have been expected. Thursday I was up in town for the purpose of reading a paper at the Royal Society. It is a strange place - no one seems to take much interest in anything & they rush things in a most amazing way. I took the opportunity of seeing the [Roya/] Academy. It is a very disappointing thing with only one or two pictures which you really care to spend much time with. Burne-Jones 'Mer-maid' is really I think far & away the most noticeable work.

Monday evening

I had intended to post this last night but friends interfered & I could not write.

Am glad to hear your case is going well.

I fancy Dugald will be successful this time: it largely depends upon whether a man named Wood—already up here at Balliol—goes in: if he does I don't see much hope for Dugie. I will put in a word with a don if I can get a chance

Yrs

WBS

PTO

Please congratulate Polly who I believe comes of age today

Gouly 88

July 27. 86

[Lincoln College

Oxford]

Dear Howard

I much fear that this is my first communication since getting back to Oxford & it is being written in fact in a train. I am on my way out having been extremely busy the last few weeks & having just managed to get through my work by dint of two "all night" sittings or nearly so. It would be a great advantage in some ways if we could reverse things & work by night. It is cooler then especially in summer & much quieter.

However by night attempts have been filled with disaster & first of all on Sunday night the rain came down in such torrents that I simply had to lay hands on every available hollow implement into which to allow the water to pour from sundry communications established in the ceiling between the internal & external atmosphere. It is well that no one else was by to hear the remarks made. Old houses are very well till it begins to rain.

Last night I first of all had an encounter with mice who boldly invaded the room in search of cake: however I scored off them & pursued them even from Dan to Beersheba.

Then our college cat began to amuse itself among the pots & pans in my scouts hole. After considerable difficulty as the beast was p...s [*illegible*] victory rested on my side. About 2 a.m. I was sincerely amused with watching & listening to a drunken man who actually refused all offers of his friends to help him home. They suggested that were they drunk they would quite expect him to assist them home: the suggestion of his being drunk was not very cordially received but after protesting for about 15 minutes that he had not the remotest intention of going home & suggesting that his friends should go somewhere else the party veered off & I was left in peace till 4 a.m.

We are just going across tonight to Calais & thence via Lille & Tournai & Bruxelles to Cologne & possibly shall get to the Drach...fels by tomorrow evening. After that we shall just go quietly up the Rhine to [*illegible*] spending 2 or 3 days on the way which can be steamed through very rapidly & shall go in Heidelberg & Speyer [?] into the Black Forest & so to Schaffhausen. There we go to Zurich & up the lake on to Wallenstadt & turn up into the mountains there into the Smitthal when I think we shall quietly spend a week or so – Then we shall walk over a low pass which I think the 2 girls can surely do to Aldtof (of Tell fame). This is close to the Lago of Lucerne & I fancy we shall spend a quiet [*illegible*] on the slope of the latter & then return via Basel, Strasbourg, Brussels & Antwerp & so to Harwich. We shall call in at Colne in Essex on our way home so that will be my address in about 3 or 4 weeks time. The girls then go north & I return to Oxford for a little while & then North. I should be very glad to get to Stornaway with you if I had time [2 words *illegible*] but fear I have not. Perhaps we can get next year but I daren't make firm [*illegible*] Prof Marshall wanted me to have a walking & sketching tour in the Sa... with him but of course I cant. This abominable train stops so much that I cant write & probably you could read what I should do & am now writing.

Glad to hear that Kings are [*illegible*] if only "socially" I am just getting out a good long article.

~~You are quite right I think in not going North to Oban whilst they are there.~~

Yrs in haste & disgust with this train

B.

Gouly 89

Lincoln Coll.

Oct 18. 86

Dear Howard,

I was very sorry to come away from Woodyly without seeing you again but got so busy in different ways that I had no time to see anyone. An article I have lately been writing has taken so long that I have done nothing else but look after this & its illustrations in my spare moments. Term beginning also makes me very busy. We are putting up a new building as a temporary laboratory over which I shall practically have charge & this also means so much further work.

We are all feeling about as miserable & depressed as it is possible to do with continuous rain & dull skies above. When Oxford is bad it is genuinely so & work becomes anything but a pleasure. Every man also imagines you have nothing to do but look after his particular interest which may possibly be very good as far as getting work done is concerned but is at the same time rather hard upon the worker.

We are just about to try & get our statutes changed here at Lincoln if which attempt be successful it will be possible for fellows to marry which will be a relief to more than one person upon this worthy foundation. However the change is only mooted as yet & very far from being accomplished: still there are a majority in favour of it & they may carry the point: after this first stage the affair has to receive the sanction of the Privy Council & after that august body has done its worst the mutilated remains must lie on the table of each house for I think 40 days so that heaven only knows what may be the final result. Each college has a visitor who can pretty much put a veto on such things - ours is King the Bishop of Lincoln & his mind being exceeding ecclesiastical & high church may revolt from the idea of unchurching the college in which case it will be all up. However I am much looking forward to a change coming & trust it will.

Of course you will have seen that Allie has missed his fellowship at B.N.C. He seemed exceedingly doubtful about his chances & I rather feared they were not as good as we could wish. I have not seen him since not having caught him in: he is now living with other B.N.C. men in lodgings near here. Dugie also I have not seen yet having really been very busy indeed since term began nor have I seen Edminson who is at Merton: however I shall see them both tomorrow I hope. I suppose you dont know how things are going at Old Trafford & I was not at Whalley Range at all this summer & so did not see Edminson.

Please remember me to your Father who I hope is well.

Thanks for the enclosed amusing epistle which probably you have given up all hope of ever seeing again.

Yrs

W.B.S.

Goultly 90

Oct 24. 86

Lincoln College

Oxford

Dear Howard,

I have must read your note & if it is not answered at once it will wait for weeks. As to spelling kindly forgive & overlook all inaccuracies – they are numerous as spelling never was in my lines: all that I can do is to disregard such embellishments of writing. I have been having a specially busy week, having undertaken in a weak moment to colour by hand 1500 lithographical plates illustrative of an article I am just publishing. It has been a ponderous task. Lillie has taken 500 the rest I have done myself “after 5 o'clock” literally. However a sabbath intervened on my behalf & I have this moment finished the last. By good luck together with Moseley’s kindness I have been able to get out an article which is attracting some little attention amongst Biologists: it concerns the presence of an extra eye in Lizards on the top of their heads & is of interest from an evolution point of view. explaining the presence of a most mysterious part of the brain in all the higher animals even ourselves. [*illegible*] our remote ancestors marching about on all fours with a great eye staring straight at the sky above. In a short time I am to give an evening lecture at the Royal Institution in town on the subject which same is or will be cause of considerable perturbation to my spirit.

As to Allie – I am very sorry indeed: he feels it keenly but there is nothing to be done except for him to try & redeem himself at “greats”: the money would have been a great service to him. I am however not at all sure though please dont mention it, whether this is not exactly the very best thing for him: he wanted something to sting him a little & force him into hard work & this is exactly what will do it. He has taken it thoroughly well though bitterly disappointed & naturally a little depressed & is now hard at work.

The Dr. was up one day last week & I am sorry that I was out when he called. This evening we have had rather an interesting common room. Dale of Birmingham & Fairbairn the head of Mansfield Coll. here & Dr Porter the head of Yale Coll. in America were all dining at High Table. In their way they were each of them very fine men & the mixture if stray [?] dissenting & stray church, was of course our Rector – Merry – is a good man especially classically, was very interesting. Unfortunately Dale had to go as soon as ever dinner was over & could not wait for common room. It certainly is in many ways most enjoyable being a fellow of a college: you get a considerably greater chance of seeing people to whom, even if you dont get to know them much, it is always interesting to listen. Dale always strikes me as being a really powerful man. I should like to really know him: Fairbairn is very philosophically learned but, I think, a little bit too ponderous & scarcely seems able to tally in simple language. With such men as these I always feel depressingly ignorant. However I must to my work
Yrs etc
W.B.S.

Goulty 91

Nov 16 86
Lincoln College
Oxford

Dear Howard,

Before this you will have received my copy of testimonial which may possibly have taken you somewhat by surprise. However my standing in the post is merely a form as my chances in face of so many senior men are practically nil. It would be a great relief if I had any chance but the post is regarded in "scientific circles" as a fore-gone conclusion in favour of a certain man who is now Professor in New Zealand. There seems extremely little chance of anything + coming up in our line & I may have to go on dragging out a miserable existence as demonstrator for goodness only knows how long. I am exceedingly glad to say however that it seems likely that our statutes will be changed in the course of the next few months enabling us to marry - at the expense of course of diminishing their value which is not cheerful but better than the present state of things. If you have not done so already dont speak in public at all of either of these occurences [*sic*]: though of course the first does not matter much. Hoyle is in for it but I fancy his chances are nil – as mine. He has had no teaching experience which will stand much in his way. Should New Zealand become vacant as it may then I shall stand for that also as far as I see at present - simply out of fear that I shall have to wait too long in England. The number of applicants for this place is huge & for future places will of course be greater still.

I trust your business affairs are going on well. What a fearful autumn we have been having – a fine bright day is now simply a God-send to us in Oxford where the elements are more than usually dispiriting.

It was extremely vexing, as you say, about poor Dick: I am afraid he has had rather a rough time of it. I hope Harry will be through his M.B. in a day or two but am somewhat fearful about it.

I could not possibly get down to see Marion today being engaged teaching at the Museum the whole time. Tuesdays Thursd. & Sats are my busiest days as my practical class goes on all day & I must be there having sole charge of it. I hope she would not think me rude. Please remember me to your Father who I hope is well.

Yrs
W.B.S.

Goulty 92

Dec. 6. 86
Lincoln College
Oxford

Dear Howard,

There is very little news to report of any kind. Nothing is definitely settled about Melbourne as yet. The English Electors have met & chosen 5 out of the rest whose names they have placed in order & sent off to Melbourne - with testimonials - recommending the one placed first for election: it remains to be seen whether the electors out there will take the English

recommends or will choose another out of the 5. At present the matter is a secret & nothing is to be known as to the order, of course we know the 5 of whom I am one.

Three out of them are already professors one in Dunedin (New Zealand) another in Sydney & another in Dublin so they have a certain amount of choice. ... A few days ago I went up to see Sir Graham Bony the agent general for Victoria to be viewed etc. He looked as much as to say "who the --- are you, sir" when I went into the room but restrained his feelings & simply enquired my age.

Certainly I shall be extremely lucky if it falls to my lot.

If by any chance it does so it means being married & going out at once which is not exactly what I should chose but it apparently is either this or nothing as far as I can see & for several reasons I am anxious to get away from here.

We are not saying anything about it yet as all is so uncertain & of course I have no right to think I shall get the post anymore than any other of the 5 & really as far as age & claims go considerably less than the others. I dont think we shall know till the middle of January.

I hope Dugie made my apologies to Marion for not seeing her in Oxford, but it was impossible being one of my demonstrating days when my class is on morning and aft. Dugie has got very nice rooms having been especially fortunate in this respect: he was with me yesterday at lunch & seems to be getting on very well. He means work & will I fancy make a place for himself for he is not devoid of power. I think amongst the three that age & power are inversely proportionate to each other.

However the great danger of a grammar school boy is that he is worked up to a certain point in pure scholarship but beyond that fails utterly.

At the same time I would give much now to have had a real classical training: it would be of great value & I feel the want of it more & more.

In perhaps 10 days I shall be in Manchester & will see you somewhere about Xmas time & if we go out it will be a busy month but anyway I will get a walk in the park

Yrs

W.B.S.

[End of letter cut away again]

Goulty 93

July 10 1900

Melbourne

My dear Howard,

Many thanks for your letter. Being so far away from England I had almost given up the idea of the F.R.S. but am very glad to have it. As you say 40 is a terrible age but personally I dont feel any different in the matter of age than I did 20 years ago and hope to be able to get through a good deal of work yet. You will be very close upon the same age when this reaches you. Only a short time ago Tubbs (you may perhaps remember him at Owens) who was staying with me here *[insert]* & I *[end insert]* were talking over the Macfadyen's & wondering what had happened to them. I quite envy them their experiences in S. Africa & hope they will come out safely.

Eric I only remember as a very minute infant & the thought of his fighting makes me feel aged. I had quite lost sight of Arnold White and am not at all surprised to find him occupying the position which he does. It is only seldom that I hear anything of old school fellows. Adami seems to be doing good work. Canada in many ways is preferable to Australia – for one thing it is nearer Europe & without a ruinous expenditure of money & time one can run over every now and again & both see friends & keep in touch with modern developments. However Australia offers a big field for work especially in the lines which I like best - zoology and anthropology. Gillen & myself have plans - as yet rather hazy but perhaps before long they will be more defined - of an expedition amongst the untamed tribes lying between the centre of Australia & Port Darwin in the north. This however means time & money & before starting I must get our National Museum into order. All my spare time during the past year has been devoted to the removing & rearrangement of the collection which is a big one - quite as big as if not bigger than the one in Manchester & comprises zoology, geology & ethnology.

There is nothing like trying to arrange a big collection for revealing to you your colossal ignorance: when you sit down to write a descriptive label then you begin to realize how defective your knowledge is. I dont know how you find matter but what constantly strikes me most forcibly, is that I can get up a given subject well enough but that it all goes out of my head with marvellous rapidity so soon as ever I tackle another one.

It used not to be thus but, while I can still remember quite well things learned at Owens or Oxford, what I now learn unless in my memory is constantly refreshed seem to evaporate and all that remains is a knowledge of where the information was derived from & a capacity of quickly re-acquiring it. ...

As you say if only the world was properly managed you & Ellie ought to have time & money to go round it & come & see us out here. Melbourne itself is anything but lovely though in years to come it will make a really magnificent town: however it is a paradise compared with Manchester though we have not & never can have suburbs which will compare with Bowdon. At the same time we have endless parks with undulating ground fringing the shores of a big blue bay & we have also endless sunshine with just enough cold, brisk, weather to keep us healthy.

Last week we had ice on the pools in the road & yet our camellias, violets, roses & primroses are in full flower & at the same time the oranges are ripening.

July 16

Your record letter has just come telling of the birth of your little girl. Many congratulations. I hope you will call her Kathleen which is one of the prettiest of girls' names. I should like to see your home at Hale but fear it cannot be for some years yet.

My next 'leave of absence' must be spent up in the interior. Gillen & I have vague idea of an expedition into the country lying between Alice Springs right in the centre & Port Darwin or the Gulf of Carpentaria. It may or may not come off but I am beginning to yearn after a breath of free air & the chance of being once more amongst the 'untutored savages' who are a good deal more interesting than their civilized brethren.

Australia has at all events the great advantage that there is no end of pioneer work to be done & work which, in anthropology at least, must be done soon if it is to be done at all. There is a great charm in pioneer work which quite compensates for the loss of many advantages which are of course absent in a new country though one cannot help at times feeling how much one misses in being so far away from the centres of civilization. It is especially the case in regard to ones children and yet on the whole Melbourne or Sydney are quite equal to an ordinary provincial town at home My feeling on coming back from England last time was that if I could not live in London I would prefer to be in either of the former two towns each of which is the centre of a big province.

Aug 20

If this letter does not go soon it will follow the path of sending others which have remained unfinished & ended a miserable existence in the w.p.b. [*wastepaper basket*] My mother tells us in her letter today that she has been to your new house & evidently likes it very much. I am glad to think that you are out of the old Romiley house & am sure that Ellie will be much better at Hale. We are in the rather awkward position of having either to turn out of our present house or buy it and do not quite know what to do. Lillie has a kind of rooted objection to buying a house – I dont quite know why except that with a kind of feminine instinct she feels that when you rent a house the landlord pays for repairs & when you own it you do the same yourself.

Property & everything is 'going up' in Melbourne & promises to continue doing so especially with the prospect of the city being for some years to come the federal capital. The next few years ought to be interesting ones out here from a political point of view. We shall undoubtedly have a protective policy and there are big questions to be worked out in regard to the opening up of the more tropical parts. This must either be done by coloured labour or not at all but the Australian working man dislikes both black & yellow men and if he be not willing to do anything himself takes good care that no one else shall do it.

Some day you ought to come out here & see things for yourself.

Give my kindest regards to Ellie who I hope is quite right & strong again.

Yours ever

W. Baldwin Spencer

P.S.

Have you read Reeve's History of New Zealand called 'Ao Tea Roa' or 'The long white cloud' if not it is the best account of an Australian colony [*sic*] yet published & gives you also an idea of the trend of modern politics out here.

W.B.S.

Goultly 94

[*part letter*]

...can read them with the greatest ease & wonder however you managed to take them & am really much obliged to you for the loan of them. My intention is to read them through & then go to Bain & Mansell etc This I think concludes apologies for this time.

I wish you could have known that you could have stayed a little longer whilst you were here such a terrible rush through gives you very little idea of the place and moreover it turned out a most lovely evening just the one on which to see Oxford though you ought to be here in the summer. An Oxford summer term with its boating & tennis is a thing to be remembered for long.

As to Ruskin he has not come yet & there is nothing definitely known as to his movements: when he does appear upon the scene I fancy it will be the occasion of a general blaguarding [*sic*] all round.

It is most marvellous how ...

[*In T.K. Penniman's hand 'Howard Goulty Early Impressions of Oxford in the 1880s'*]

Transcribed by Alison Petch during the Scoping Museum Anthropology research project and in June 2015.