

Shropshire - an old house in a beautiful country,  
within sight of the black basalt & most interesting  
earth-work (believed to be religious.) of Clee Hill -  
which however I had no means of getting near - but  
we drove to a very beautiful house in the neighbourhood,  
& whom I should in find as the occupants but the wife  
& family of Mr. Benson the Southwark Magistrate,  
so celebrated of late - Indeed, as I think I have heard  
you say, the world is very small after all. - And the He-  
rford publisher has "declined business", & been unable  
to set about my book (my father's) on the Civil War, & I  
have turned it over to Longman, & he is going to set a-  
bout it as soon as ever a critical friend has settled  
some points for me - And I fancied I found a great  
change in one of  $\Sigma$ 's pairs. & wrote about it to  
Baron Dembowski, who sent me a most obliging re-  
ply, & found it was a case of "mistaken identity" -  
& which I have got told of, it seems he does not know,  
& I am sure I don't - & hope it may turn out new,  
but if it does it will be no great wonder, for Aquila,  
where it is, swarms with pairs & groups of stars. -  
And my  $9\frac{1}{3}$  in. mirror turns out very fine - and so  
does not Grubb's great grubby speculum at Edinburgh -  
& I went from Lady E. H's to see a very fine  $12\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Bronning, formerly Crossley's, & saw readily 5 sat. of  
Saturn, tho' so low, & in strong moonlight. And Long-  
man & his people came & lunched at Hardwick, of all  
places, en route from Wales to London - and so there's  
a long story & not worth the telling, and a great deal  
of rubbish to waste your time. And what has  
upset me, poor Bird & Birmingham have both been  
very seriously ill - the former I fear with some chronic  
ailment, connected possibly with his residence half  
underground & among the dead, in a rapidly filling  
cemetery. - And it made me very sad to read the dis-  
astrous story of poor Hawkey's fire - I had made his  
acquaintance on telescopic matters, & been over his  
half-finished house, & seen where his Obs. was to  
be - he did not then I believe contemplate two  
separate ones - & he had just then purchased Darby's  
 $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. Slaten, which was good, & I fear may have  
been the one destroyed - the Telegraph speaks of a  
reflector having suffered - but as the achromatic was  
just about being erected when I was there, & there was  
no reflector then purchased, I suppose the paper may  
have been in error. And I have had a "deputation"  
preaching for me, who knew "R.A.P." at College, &  
how he squandered away a great deal of money, &c. &c.