

originated in the conflagration of some forest: still it seems a pity to ignore it altogether, when there is so especially favourable an opportunity for investigation.

I have spent considerable time in the British Museum with the works of Sidonius Apollinaris, Aemilius Airtus, Veyron-Liuck, & others - & left hardly a stone unturned - with a resulting impression rather against the idea of any actual eruption in the time of Sidonius, though very violent earthquakes seem fully attested.

I regret giving you this trouble, but I know of no one so likely to give effect to my wish.

Believe me

Yours very affectionately  
J. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage, 16 Aug. 1876.

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My dearest Arthur,

After hearing from me yesterday you will be surprised at another missive today - & I must tell you at once what it is about.

I have recently seen an announcement of a meeting of French "savants" to be held just about this time at Clermont Ferrand - a place which I visited with great <sup>pleasure</sup> ~~interest~~ many years ago. I had been previously, and still am, very much interested in the question of the antiquity of those volcanoes, & have read nearly all that has been written on that subject - especially Scrope's book which you so kindly gave me. But nowhere have I seen any allusion to a curious little