

Hardwick Vic. 17 Dec. 1883.

2185

My dearest Arthur

I am come to torment you - as I am pretty sure to do when I am in a mess! Stevenson, the worthy observer at Auckland, wishes to become F.R.A.S. & is going to send me £4.4.0 for entrance fee & first year: what he seems to want is companionship & encouragement in his studies, not there in an intellectual wilderness. Now it has occurred to me that probably fellowship in the Liverpool Astronomical Society w^d. answer his purpose, just as well, & at much less expense - but there is no time for me to ask him & get his reply before posting up his proposal at the RAS meeting in Jan^y next. Under these circumstances what I want you kindly to tell me is this - could we propose him ^{at RAS} & if I found he preferred Liverpool, withdraw the nomination afterwards? or even after the ballot if I cannot get his answer in time which may be matter of doubt? All he w^d. lose by exchange for Liverpool w^d. be the Society's publications & the tail of F.R.A.S. w^h his name - otherwise, for spirit & "go" I w^d. sooner belong to Lⁱpool. And he can make no use of our grand library. Please let me hear of^r good advice as soon as convenient & believe me

your loving old friend J.W.W.

If he still prefers RAS & we propose him in Feb^y without losing the publications of 1884?

307

51