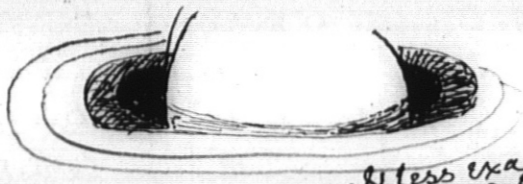


sharply F than P. This kind of thing



Of course not so distinct as I have sketched
at here. Is this something abnormal in my
eye? One thing seems to me certain, as
far as recollection of ^{the} old drawings goes - that
C has much faded where it crosses the ball.
It never could have been mistaken, as I
think it used to be, for the shadow of the
ring. - The non-meeting of the projections of C
across the ball & on the sky would be explained
by a greater extent of C across the dark area
than my optical power can reach - but I fear
this is not confirmed by others who command
the inner edge of C on the sky more plainly
than I can pretend to do. - My wife adds
her kind love & promises every care of any-
thing you may please to send her.

Yours very affectionately

T. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage, 19 Feb. 1884.

34 (259)

My dearest Arthur,

How kind of you to think of us! But as of the
happens, we had been thinking of you - & meaning
to write very soon. My wife, to ask if you happen
to have any good account of the Krakatoa eruption
to "put her up" to the present state of information -
about which we are much in the dark here - and I,
to report progress in general, according to your kind
wish - & about poor Mary in particular. - And
now I have first of all to thank you very affecti-
onately for your truly friendly invitation, & to say
that we have no idea at present of going to Town -
all the less because my wife has managed to get
through the winter (so far!) better than some pre-
vious ones, by very careful seclusion from cold.

If spared till the beginning or middle of May we
might very probably venture upon such an excursion
- & then what a pleasure to see your kind face again
and by that time I hope we may be able to bring
with us the one so kindly included in your invita-
tion. Her story, with all its strange alternations, has
been a romance - of a peculiarly sad kind - Her mind
has been so weakened & confused by all she has gone
through that she has been almost incapable of see-