

Hardwick Vicarage, Hay, 19 Aug. 1871. —

28
My dearest Arthur,

I am much obliged by your kind letter, and the opportunity of reading the communication from Secchi — some parts of which are a real linguistic curiosity — especially the opening — a marvel in its way. But I truly regret the "sort" which he fears for himself and the observatory. It would be a barbarity to displace him — & though I have about as little sympathy with the Jesuit system as may be, I have heard that at any rate they were as irreproachable as any — if not more so than any — of the ecclesiastics at Rome. —

I hope you will have a charming excursion, & will come back all the lighter-hearted & more fit for the work of life. I do not understand whether you will have completed your sub-editorial task before you start, or not — I sincerely hope you may, for I well know from experience how unpleasant it is to be plunged on one's return into a mass of intermitted engagements. — No doubt I, & my wife too — should have enjoyed some things at Edinburgh, very much — but I question whether they would have repaid so long a journey — and anyhow we have done very well for this season. As to Brighton — I should think the position a good one — but I should question our going there — or anywhere almost, if Switzerland were at