

Handrick Parsonage, <sup>22</sup>

Feb. 6. 1865.

My dear Sir,

Not posted till 7th. owing to  
dreadful state of Roads  
with snow.

Right glad was I to hear from you, for I had been thinking of you often, & wondering how you were getting on. And now I am rejoiced to get so pleasant an account, both of your proceedings & your expectations. What you have said as to the trial of prosperity is I am sure most true - this a Heavenly Father's mercy I have known much of it myself. But he that knew how to be abased, knew also how to abound - everywhere & in all things he was instructed - but it was by the same Divine Teacher who is equally willing to impart the same lessons of sufficiency - derived indeed, but only the more real on that account - to all who look for it at His hands. You will not be in real danger, I believe, my dear friend, so long as you fear lest you should be. And under this wholesome im-



-pression, you will I have no doubt, feel it  
your duty to cultivate your every talent to its  
full extent. And He whose providence has given  
you this opening, & enabled you to see a little way  
along a pleasant path, will no doubt ~~assign~~  
you your place & your work. What it may be,  
time will show - but one thing is evident - that  
there is at present a great want of Christian  
science - the two lines - instead of converging to  
their ultimate end in the glory of God, are not  
even running parallel - the divergence is e-  
qually obvious & painful - & he that sets him-  
self to work, however humbly & distrustfully,  
in remedying this, the greatest evil of the day  
(I pray, bad as it is, still I am sure he in the  
end found a far inferior mischief) will be a  
workman that need not be ashamed. - If such a  
poor shortsighted creature as myself might venture  
to speculate upon futurity, such, I should ~~sup~~ sup-  
pose, will be your future destination - and a  
very honourable one it will be.

A good many matters have passed through my  
hands since we parted: - the results of which have  
chiefly been filtered into the Nat. Obs. - I have had  
a little correspondence of a nebulous character with Mr.  
Sturgeon, whom I find most pleasant & obliging. His  
own results be. certainly place him at the head of  
the discoverers of the century. I have asked him to ex-  
amine that most curious nebulous star 45 H. IV. which I  
have been looking at, & have ascertained (or rather Mr.  
Kroott has ascertained what I did but estimate) that either  
it, or its companion star, has moved in angle. - Mr.  
Litt's silvered specula go on admirably. He is about to com-  
mence one of 12 inches, from his great success on 8 7/8. -  
The latter I have only tried on terrestrial objects - but it  
was very fine. I was to have had it for the opposition  
of J - but Mr. Litt had but one stand - intended for  
trial purposes - and that was carried off by a red-hub  
customer - who bought one of the Dinck that I tried.  
& says he would not change it for a 6 inch Clark or  
Dallmeyer. - I could not quite endorse that, but it  
certainly is a noble instrument. If you have any astro-  
nomical friends <sup>at Cambridge</sup> who are thinking of setting themselves  
up with an instrument at a very moderate cost, it



is worth their consideration.

The Dielyte scheme, too, has made more progress than I expected - having been taken up by a young man named Ingall of Camberwell - of whom I know nothing but as an ingenious correspondent. He applied to me for some information, which he has worked out well by means of a very cheap & good optician - & the result, with 3 & 4 inches, of very approximate trials, is highly satisfactory. The letter, tho' the curves differed a good deal from my recommendation, divides  $\zeta$  Orionis, & my young friend is delighted.

- I have sent all my Mean Observations to Mr. Lockyer. What he will do with them I do not know.

- I feel very much obliged to your good Father for his very kind offer of executing any Commission for me. Pray thank him especially for me when you next write - & offer my kind remembrances to your excellent Mother. I hope you will let me hear of your progress from time to time, and in the mean time believe me to be

Mr. Berthou has found Malaga so miserable -  
that he has decided upon proceeding to Malta.  
I was fortunate enough to get him an introduction to Mr. LaSelle from Adm. Smyth.

Yr dear Sir,

Yours affectionately  
J. W. Webb.