

Hardink Parsonage, 31  
Dec. 26. /65.

My dear young friend,

Thank you for your kind letter - to which I could not now reply - as the carting I fear I am going to give you a little trouble - but as so much hurried I must both enter the matter at once. A scamp calling himself "Paradox" has denied the rotundity of the Earth, &c. &c. & lives by lecturing to that effect, has been lecturing the people of Chelt. - of late, & I have been begged to confront him - I did so - foolishly enough - your suggestion to what purpose when he maintained his ground & these assertions - in the hearing of an audience who did not contradict him -

That the Earth is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  enlightened at the Equator!

That the circles described by the Southern stars increase beyond the equator! -

That the Sun never rises at  $90^\circ$  from the Zenith, but at  $70^\circ$  or  $80^\circ$ ! -

A schoolmaster who had detected him at Gloucester was so disgusted that this he would I have had a discussion against him at Chelt. - he w? has given up & refused to meet him - but he had



he was pledged - all I can do is to help him in  
any way I can. -

His book "The Earth and Globe, by 'Perseus'"  
was put into my hands and the wings of the lecture  
course by having been backed & found here, &  
not choosing to pay 3s. 6d. for it.) I have had time  
to examine it since, & a more wonderful piece of  
sophistry I never saw. It is full of lies in plain  
English. And to "give the lie" to these before an  
incompetent audience does little good. I think  
however I can root some of his misquotations.  
And if you only would help me a little bit!  
I know it is a great, very great favor. But if  
you w<sup>d</sup>. only run down to Somerset House &  
write a thing for me. - I w<sup>d</sup>. write to William,  
& perhaps my do so, he fears he might not for  
I am - & then I am beat. I will quote the  
person, in connection with Lunar Eclipses, &  
which he says are caused not by the shadow of the  
Earth but by some intervening body! - He says  
"that such a body exists is admitted by several dis-  
tinguished astronomers. In the report of the Council  
of the R. Astronom. Society for June 1850,  
it is stated, "we myself doubt whether that body



which in all the Moon is the only satellite of the  
earth." In the report of the Academy of Sciences  
for Oct. 12. 1846. & again for August, 1847. the  
Director of one of the French Observatories gives a  
number of observations & calculations which have led  
him to conclude that there is at least one non-lu-  
minous body of considerable magnitude which is at-  
tached as a satellite to this Earth." \*

\* Referred to in "Lardner's Museum of Science" p.  
159.

Now you see the man - an astronomical Sino-  
sider! Unfortunately, my Reports of the A.S.S. in  
Monthly Notes begin a year or two too late. The  
copy! It w. L. in Vol. XI. or so. I want so  
express a contradiction that it c. be read at a public  
discussion in a change of view - & it sh.  
L. stated if it is certain if it is no error of prep.  
~~but~~ (or to date) he no such statement ~~it~~  
could ever have been made of the Council. The  
other statement (the French one) has dates clear  
enough. In this case I presume it is a falsified  
version of Petit's "Bouche." - He has  
written "Somerville's Physical Sciences"!



so much for honesty - -

I never saw anything more curious ~~that~~ than  
the prevented ingenuities of the book - it wd  
deserve praise were it not that on every  
cell stand diabolical - -

If too busy wd go down to Sam<sup>r</sup> House  
C<sup>o</sup> for Mr. M. by send<sup>g</sup> cards to William  
to execute this - I sd for this morning  
by great vexation that Monthly notes  
begin with Vol. XII. - ~~by~~ Many things  
I can't stop to tell you how many have played  
strange into the head of this ~~game~~ -  
with my ~~to~~ by laying risks, but -  
precious hearts

Y<sup>r</sup> most affectionate  
I do well

Ms. I go to Chelms. D.V. tomorrow to  
remain till Saturday. Then I am here. I  
for a possible help in it all I sh. be so glad  
to hear very soon, or if you can't I will ask  
some one else. (address, 19. Rodney Terrace  
Chelmsford)