

Wyeham n. Monmouth, 38
Jan. 29. 1866. -

My dear young friend,

I feel rather ashamed that I never write to you, excepting to give you thanks on such some trifling inquiries - I am sorry to say the present is no exception to the rule. -

A non-mathematical though very intelligent neighbour asked me a question the other day involving a statement that RADIUS and CO. might be expressed in DEGREES min: & sec: - To my ignorance & inexperience this seemed mighty queer - & I so repeated this tampering with accustomed modes of expression, that he sent me the book; when I found it - a book apparently of authority & acceptance. I found he was perfectly right in his statement - so I could only write to say it was the first time in my life that I had seen the sides of a triangle, as well as its angles, expressed in DEGREES - but I w^d ask - & this is the result: I have sent for a copy of the present, & sh^d really like to

know (any time when you may be writing) whether
this really is a modern innovation in terminology
(which I could not advise, tho' possibly it may
have the merit! of being compendious!) - or whe-
ther it is - what my ignorance & impudence
w^d. call it - a very discreditable specimen of
blundering in high places! -

My wife sends her love & desires me to enclose
for you one of several little portraits of John Hamp-
den which Dr. Lee has kindly sent her - she is al-
so going to send you a copy of "The Earth a Globe!" -
You will miss the common arguments from circum-
navigation - but you will easily see that it is inconclu-
sive - being on the common section of a plane and
of sphere. The argument too from a S. celestial pole
is unnoticed, or introduced but I wished to avoid
in the effort to attain simplicity - the idea of ro-
tation. -

I wrote the above amidst a lot of talk last
night. - I must add a little this morning - if only
to say I much wish you could have been at a
Church meeting at my house the other day. Since
the defects of the Authorized Version were de-

scanted upon, and one of the party gave us a
masterly exposure of one or two of Colenso's absurd
mystifications - which though spun out into several
pages loaded with Hebrew, are solely based upon
errors in the English translation!

My little book is coming to a second edition.
I wish it had not been just now when I am fully
burdened with the preparation of 12 lectures for the
Ladies' Coll: at Chelt. - But it must be either
this, somehow, - and I should feel especially
obliged if you can suggest any desirable addi-
tions or corrections. I have only just looked
at it - to see a good deal of trouble overhang-
ing my future time. I hope my poor hairs
won't get worn to a thread, - amongst it
all. And worse than all, these things are taking
up, I fear, more than they ought, of time which
should be all consecrated to God. I sometimes
doubt, whether I am justified in undertaking so
much - but then something or other comes. I had
been to think that I am ~~at~~ providentially so called, &
ought not to refuse what is put into my hands.

My Lectures will be on Heat, Electricity
& Magnetism. I have sent for the articles
in Watts' Dict. of Chemistry on these sub-
jects - which I hear are very good. If
anything's very new & very curious on these
matters sh^d. happen to come in your way,
will you please not to forget me? -

I have incidentally heard something most
profitable as to your mathematical progress &
prospects - which I trust will be fulfilled with
abundance, thro' that great blessing which alone
can prosper either intellectual or spiritual
efforts: he which is ever ready for the asking
he shall be going home on Friday. I am
sure my father would add his kind regards
if here. -

Believe me, my dear young friend,

Yours very affectionately

J. W. Webbs

I think old Cockatoo is funnier than ever.