

Feb. 8. 1866. —

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My dear young friend,

I have reopened the letter & made a heap  
of the envelope to take the opportunity of a scrawl  
to thank you much for all your kindness. I find  
from high authority there is no Electric arc with  
big batteries, so we must refer to Coopers

— well,

What monstrous lies some (travellers) do tell!  
Thank you too about Recumen (not Römer  
the Dane, another man whose name is always  
spelt that way -) I find it is Ré-au-men,  
in 3 syllables. — I think the action of spirit  
is supposed instantaneous: but ex. why? —  
your speculation about it is very interesting. But  
you must have a very marvellous idea of my  
mathematics. Do you know, seriously & soberly,  
I have no conception of even the meaning of  
 $\log \log \log$  —  $\log \log 2$ ! — I once



know Duclou & Robertson's C. Section, & could  
work a simple equation or so - but that was  
all! & I repeat it no often.

Shall we know anything about  
these things hereafter? or what is  
the distinction of uncultivated  
capacity <sup>and taste</sup> - which often exists when  
there is little or no education? -

"The lower functional form of infants"  
What's that? Could it be expressed  
thus?

$$\frac{I.W.W}{1} = 0 \dots$$

Now seriously I want back your  
sincerely

I see pretty clearly there is a train of



research upon the subject of Radiant  
Heat, which he also follows, may advance  
himself in the scientific world. — ~~That~~  
How? require some leisure, & <sup>money</sup> ~~expense~~,  
& a book for the subject. I have the  
letter, he neither of the former — & w<sup>d</sup>  
gladly hand over my ideas to a friend, or  
especially to yourself, if you w<sup>d</sup> like to  
take it up. ~~But~~ I have no notion of  
writing about such things & Tyndall or Stokes  
or men who have plenty of name already. If  
they have not started this game for themselves  
I don't see why I sh<sup>d</sup> do it for them.

But I am I should dearly like to see some  
of these matters in the hand of a friend whom  
(if the research was successful or I fully  
expect) they w<sup>d</sup>, temporarily speaking,  
benefit — I have thought that opportunity



have been repeatedly put in my hands, but  
for your sake, but that of others - It may  
be so here. Do you think you can take  
this up, within any reasonable time?

Turn it over in yr mind. If not I  
sh<sup>d</sup>. like to mention it elsewhere - but  
you must have the first refusal -

The expense w<sup>d</sup>. be a rock-salt lens,  
<sup>some</sup> & silvered mirrors, & galvanometer  
& thermo-electric pile - nothing very  
dreadful. But much delicacy w<sup>d</sup>. be  
requisite for good results -

Wishing you all blessings I remain  
yours affectionately

J. W. Webb.