

Hardwick Parsonage, <sup>44</sup>  
Jul 20. / 66.

My dear young friend,

I have at last got through a nasty heavy  
Int. Ab. article which has been lying like a dead  
weight upon me ever since I came home - and now  
with much pleasure I take up my pen before you. I had  
great wish to submit a part of it to you before it  
went to press - & was only hindered by two reasons -  
the one - that I believed I had been so cautious that  
what I said, theoretically, could be laid hold of by your  
mathematicians - the other, & the stronger reason, was,  
that I was much behind time, & only pressed to  
get through anyway, & the copying out a bit would have  
been the last ounce on the camel's (or ass's) back.  
So it went without - and after all is too late to be  
all put in. I did not touch upon your wave of com-  
pulsion because I feel sure, however probable, or  
even certain, its existence may be, I do not think  
it could possibly be rendered visible by any optical  
means that we possess, & my article is charged so over-  
loaded with matter of observation that I had no room  
for speculation of that kind. Nevertheless it is a very  
interesting point - & I have a suspicion that the differing



visibility of the divisions of the ring, or opposite sides of the ball (which has been too often seen to be mere illusion) may be dependent on the position of the sat? for the time - may be the effect is short of the resultant of their attraction. Careful comparison & observation would show this, & I wish you had time & opportunity to take it in hand.

I have scarcely anything further to tell you. With is going on cepsitally. Our President Mr. Pritchard has ordered one of his large ones - so has somebody else who is going to make a great fuss about it (I forget who) & what is no small triumph, Mr. Denton has at last become more than satisfied, charmed with the workings of his - which is really a very perfect mirror, but had been put into the cell the wrong way for axis of flexure. I hear y stand is nearly ready, & Mr. Pritchard has seen it & been delighted with its firmness. Darning has by this time I hope sent him my flat. Mr. Coventry who had advised  $\approx 10\frac{1}{4}$  in: to be mounted in the completest manner, has refused to have it, merely from some delay on D's part - & probably it might get cheap now. - Mr. With & his nephew have both deposited screws - with the great  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inch an un-stellar, granulated look and 13 III. hammering



strange with Mr. Stuggini's marvellous intuition (and -  
I must tell him about it. I don't suppose the E. of K.  
has definition enough to touch this most curious point.  
I have been unable to find anything about the per-  
spective question where I expected - in Rees's Cyclopa-  
edia - but though I cannot demonstrate the hyperbolic  
form of the image upon the retina - which I think is the  
point, I see plainly it is not a part circle. Has any  
other curve asymptotes (properly so called) besides the hy-  
perbola? - [I have just gone to look in Rees - & might  
have saved myself the trouble of writing that ignorant  
question. Whence, I will not say that the curve on the  
retina is a hyperbola - but that it is not a part  
circle, & that it has asymptotes. -] I do not now re-  
call whether  $x$  is absciss or ordinate - but if we put it  
for absciss, I believe we should have  $y = \sqrt{d^2 - x^2}$  -  
where  $d$  is = distance of the eye from the point in  
the curve. - But what this makes I have as little  
idea as may a child hear of the Great Herring Problem.  
- Our happy journey ended as pleasant as it had been  
carried through - for though I managed to leave a package be-  
hind at Paddington, containing a portfolio of Swift's sketches,  
it was (though insufficiently directed) recovered a few days af-  
terwards - we are constantly looking back to those days, the  
happiness of which was so very much enhanced by your  
company, - and thinking how graciously we were prospered  
in them from beginning to end. - Among other pleasant matters



hardly all our dear little Swiss roots are alive & many of them, especially the beautiful little Soldanelles, actually thriving, though so delicate & gathered in flower. -

Do you see the next step Cleser has taken towards the precipice? - He now avows his doubt whether prayer ought to be addressed to Christ! So you see one must be for him, it is well that, by an eminent example, the eyes of many well-meaning people should be opened to the real meaning of the line of sophistry which he has pursued. I have no doubt that such attempts will ultimately all terminate in the utter discomfiture of their authors - but who can say how much mischief may be done in the interim? - Such is the result of unguided & unlimited self-direction - so flattering to the pride of human intellect, & so entirely unsatisfactory in its fruits! Some - many I trust - will take the warning thus graciously given. -

Henrietta continues, you will be glad to hear, & feel the great benefit of her little trip - people say here she is wonderfully altered for the better. My dear Father has not been very well of late, but there is nothing to cause immediate apprehension. I have not written to Dick yet but have heard from him - he says he wishes I c<sup>d</sup>. see some drawings of his which had not been approved - but will continue to work on in what he considers the best way -

My wife sends her love & my father his kind regards & I remain,  
My dear young friend  
yours very affectionately  
T. W. Webb.