

Hardwick Parsonage, 63
Sep. 14. 1867.

My very dear Arthur,

We were truly glad to hear from you, & to get no
worse an account than you have been able to send us. You
don't say when you shall return to Cambridge - so we
shall send this to Hunter St. - I was never so sorry
to part with you - though you might not have thought
so - for the coming up of a certain Maria in a little
black hat disturbed me - the said Maria's troubles hav-
ing of late interested me very considerably, and I having
failed to find her to have a talk which I much want-
ed - so when the said Maria came upon me most unex-
pectedly it threw me somewhat off my balance & I had
two to look after instead of one. - How much I wish-
ed you could have stayed longer with us - I could have
shown you many things which have occurred to me since,
& talked over many more - & I might have had more
opportunity of proving how truly & deeply I am con-
cerned for your happiness in every way. This but little
that I may be able ~~to~~ even to do to promote it - but that
little will I am sure be most willingly & earnestly
done - & the more opportunity you will give me of doing
it, the better pleased I shall be. - You may think this
hardly consistent with some things I said - but indeed
I had no idea of it at the time (though I ought to have had)

that I was causing you so much pain by some re-
marks of mine - I thought about it long and sadly
& am much concerned, not only on your account - but
from this annoying but salutary - mortification of know-
ing that I am not, even at my years, a wise man.
It is very easy to be, in theory, a "wise reprov-er"
(Prov. xxv. 12) - but theory & practice are far apart - & the
more interested I am in any matter, the less likely I
am, I fear, to express myself about it so as to leave
no ground for subsequent regret. I was deeply concerned
therefore to find how much more I had said than there
was any occasion for - how much that simply gave pain
(where I should above all things have desired not to give
it) and done no good after all! - well - our comfort
is: there is nothing more profitable for us than to think
over our own failings (or excesses) & trace them well to
their roots, that, however far from wise in the ab-
stract, we may at least be wiser next time.

You will like to hear that we have been able to arrange
for going to Cheltenham next week, & to London the first
fortnight in Oct. when if all be well, we are looking for-
ward with especial pleasure to seeing you again. The more
the merrier. - I wish you had been here last night - air very
fair & a fine sight of the Transit of 4I, followed by his
shadow, & then by II. I thought too I caught that terrible

comes of I Cypri. - In regard to your proposed work on light,
I don't know that any line - as far as my very limited information
goes - would do more to stamp you as a master of your subject, than
a thorough discussion - analytical & experimental, of the unresolved
difficulty, whether light, heat, & actinism are 3 ^{partially} superposed
spectra having specifically different properties - or one long series
of undulations differing not specifically, but only in ^{rapidity} velocity, &
possibly as you explained to me in that same peculiarity which
is thought to give quality to sound.

Is it ~~not~~ distinctly understood why some substances act more
on the extremes, others on the centre, of the colour spectrum? -

When invisible undulations are so weighted as even to be
transformed to the red end of the spectrum (which I not only
believe I have seen, but I think you will find Stokes ~~admits~~
asserts) would they thereby acquire the property of exciting
Heat? or would you have Cold Red light? (There's something
brain-new for you: I forged this moment on the breakfast table
& tempered in a Cup of Coffee.) -

And mind - you are to give me what notice you comfortably
can - of your arrangements to meet us in Town, that I may
~~give~~ bespeak Buckingham. We ought to do justice (all
parties - telegraphs included - to say, the first five nights after
such a date, whenever that may suit you. - I sh^d. like to take
you to Downing's also, as I hope you will have a grand Spectro-
scope some day. Mind also to let me know (to do me no
harm) whether you want your Lloyd before we meet? -
I hope we shall have a right jolly time of it yet - The old Welsh
toast was "Toasted Cheese and Hang the Saxon!" ours shall be,
a happy meeting and a fig for the Cosine of Infinity! -
Your especially loving friend T. W. Webb

My dear Mother
I was very glad to
see your hand writing & to hear
that you were safe. I should
have been very much surprised
I parted with you, but for the
hope of your return you again
in February, & we will be
we on our way, we will
go D.V. to Shelburne or London
but we shall be home again
on Friday or Saturday - then
we shall meet you in London
where we hope to go on the
30th & I hear to-day we shall
also meet my brother & sister
from Troy, so you will be the
mistress (if Helen will let her) during
their absence. I have heard again