

LENSFIELD COTTAGE, CAMBRIDGE, 7 MARCH, 1887.

DEAR SIR WILLIAM DAWSON,

I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER ON MY RETURN FROM A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY IN LONDON LAST THURSDAY. IT DID NOT SEEM TO ME THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO YOUR MAKING ANY USE YOU MIGHT LIKE OF YOUR LETTER TO ME, BUT I DELAYED TELEGRAPHING TO YOU TILL I SHOULD HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY OF CONSULTING ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES. HIS OPINION WAS QUITE THE SAME, AND THEREFORE I IMMEDIATELY TELEGRAPHED.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ON THURSDAY WEEK THE 17 TH INSTANT. I SENT A COPY OF YOUR LETTER TO BE PRINTED FOR THE USE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANYTHING WILL BE SETTLED OFFHAND ABOUT IT AT THE MEETING ON THE 17 TH. A COMMITTEE WAS APPOINTED BY THE LAST COUNCIL, THAT IS, THE COUNCIL THAT HELD OFFICE TILL THE ANNIVERSARY NOV. 30, 1886, AND THEIR REPORT HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BY THE PRESENT COUNCIL, BUT NOTHING FINAL HAS AT PRESENT BEEN DECIDED ON. YOUR LETTER WILL FORM AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT FOR THEM TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE COUNCIL MAY DECIDE TO DO, BUT I THINK IT VERY PROBABLE THAT THEY MAY REFER THE WHOLE SUBJECT TO A FRESH COMMITTEE, OR THAT THE SAME COMMITTEE AS BEFORE MAY BE APPOINTED TO TAKE THE WHOLE

QUESTION INTO CONSIDERATION, AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL. OF

COURSE IT IS NOT A QUESTION WHICH PRESSES FOR ANY IMMEDIATE DECI-

SION. IT IS BETTER THAT IT SHOULD BE WELL THOUGHT OVER BEFORE

ACTION IS TAKEN.

I REMAIN DEAR SIR WILLIAM,

YOURS VERY SINCERELY,

*G. G. Stokes*

P.S. THE ABOVE WAS RETURNED TO ME BY A GENTLEMAN WHO HAD  
SENT ME A BOOK ON APPROVAL, AND I SUPPOSE MY LETTER TO HIM

WENT TO YOU. IF SO, YOU MAY AS WELL DESTROY IT.

MARCH 9.

*Stokes  
Mar 1/87*