

Barkhure

West Bank,  
York.

10 - XI - 1883

My dear Sir,

I learn, from Mr. Edw.<sup>d</sup>  
Charlesworth, who is at pres-  
ent a visitor at my house,  
that you are now in England.

Would you permit me to  
say, that, should it be possible  
for you to visit York (only  
4 hours distant, by one or  
two daily trains) before re-  
turning to America, I should  
be delighted to have you  
under my roof, even if <sup>it</sup> could  
only be for a few hours?

You will excuse me, as an  
entire stranger, for telling you

that I have perused the recent article in "Nature" (giving your lecture at Minneapolis, on "Some unsolved problems in Geology") with more than ordinary pleasure & thankfulness. — as calculated, eminently, to place scientific truths, in the minds of many, in a much more healthy form.

Yet I am not one of those who "take fright" at the expression of views & ideas (such as you virtually combat) that <sup>many</sup> ~~some~~ regard as "erroneous" or "misleading", when they are the result of strong personal conviction & honest search after truth. Granted, that they may be, &

are misleading, in some  
senses of the word; they are  
nevertheless powerful indi-  
rect agents in the ultimate  
unfolding of Truth. Had no  
"wrong ideas" (as we regard  
them) been put forth by  
some extreme men, who (rightly)  
shrink from credulously ac-  
cepting opinions which, to  
their minds, are not "solid,"  
the world would not have  
had the benefit of such a  
reply as your address gives!

The only real danger lies,  
I suspect, in conscious with-  
holding of "truth" (~~and~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~); or  
the distortion of it from (per-  
haps unrealised) self-interested  
motives? Many a one, who

is (too glibly) called "a heretic"  
has been a powerful indirect  
agent in its ultimate spread.

I had the pleasure, 2 years  
ago, of the company of Dr. Lea  
Gray & his lady. They stayed  
10 days or so at my house  
& I think were pleased.

Mr. Charlesworth will  
tell you that we have many  
interesting things to show in  
York.

Believe me

Yours very truly  
Ed. Backhouse

Dr. J. W. Dawson