Naples
Dec 28/83

My dear Mr Farmer,

We have now been in this city for nearly a week, and hope to embark to-morrow for Alexandria. We have not been able to visit all the places of interest in the vicinity of ~~this city~~ Naples; but we have had time to climb to the summit of Vesuvius and to examine Pompeii and its vicinity, and to see museums in the city. I have

also made the acquaintance of some Scientific men, more especially of Prof. Giuseppe, Dr Johnston Lavis and Dr Dohrn. From the two former I hope to obtain interesting series of Vesuvian rocks and minerals, and from the latter I have secured for the Museum a number of beautifully preserved specimens of Mediterranean animals needed to complete our collections in some departments of Zoology.

When on Mt Vesuvius and at Pompeii we, I collected a great variety of volcanic rocks, more especially of the more recent lavas, & ash-beds, which will improve very much our means of illustrating volcanic action. Now I am slipping hence to Liverpool to await my return.

Vesuvius has not favoured us with an eruption

during our stay, but is in an ordinary condition of activity, emitting much vapours, sending out a small lava stream from one side and ejecting at intervals lumps of red-hot lava from the inner crater. On the whole I am much pleased with what I have seen here of volcanic phenomena, and having good geological maps and the advice of scientific friends, I have been able to see much in little time. The weather has been cold

and windy but dry, and the day we had for Besevins was the only tolerable one that has occurred this week.

Early this morning the sides of the mountains were sprinkled with snow, forming a strange contrast to the orange trees, palms and cacti of the lower grounds. The wind has abated somewhat, and we may hope for a favorable day to suit to-morrow. What they call a Sierra Montana tree, blooming from

of all our friends at home, with
earnest prayers for their welfare.
I hasten to write next from
Cairo.

Farewell

Yours sincerely

J W Dawson

the snow-clad tops of the Appennines, would be reckoned cold even in Canada; but it seems not to descend in actual temperature low enough to freeze delicate plants, and it is always warm in the sun.

We are very thankful for the continued good news as to college matters, and desire to be remembered with kind greetings to all friends in Montreal. We lunched on Christmas day on lemons, about the time of early breakfast in Montreal, and thought