

Warden
Suppl
Feb 1890
L

Lord's walk

Jan. 24th 1898

To Sir J. William Dawson F.R.S. etc

Dear Sir.

I think you will forgive me for taking a very great liberty when I state to you the following facts. Being a young man who for at least one half of his life has been a devoted student in the sciences, in which you have been such a profound, and world renowned master, my Geology and also who has lately studied the theory of Evolution as expounded in the works of Darwin, Huxley, Haeckel, and Spencer, and accepted the theory, I have been greatly perplexed as to how the theory would affect my spiritual life and development: especially would it be incompatible with my belief in Christ, and knowing how deeply you have studied these questions, I have taken the

great liberty of writing to you for advice
for there is no one else in the world to whom
I could come nearer than yourself, having
been a student of your works and thence
through them catching a glimpse of your
character. I have no hesitation of asking you
the following questions.

1st Is a belief in Evolution inconsistent.

2nd with a belief in Christ

3rd that God is a good and personal
Being

4th that men are able by God's good spirits
to overcome their hereditary instincts and
animal passions, and live a pure and
noble life.

I am aware that you have a perfect right
not to answer such pointed questions as these,
but if you would only do so, to a very
great admirer of your geological works and
original investigation, and of a devoted but
perplexed lover of God's works in Nature, you
will confer a very great and immense service
which will be gratefully accepted

If I receive no answer I shall not be pained, because I have
no right to ask such important services from you, but if I do
I shall remember that amidst your busy life, you can find time
to relieve a stranger of his doubts and difficulties in which you
will earn the everlasting and thanks of

Yours Most Sincerely
James Mearns

Dr. William Dawson. C.M.G.
