London Nov 1st 1864

Dear Papa

I posted your letter to Ross & called there next saturday. He or rather someone else who was there said that the reason the stage did not fit was because he did not know that your micro was of the old pattern, as the new ones are of slightly different size. He said there was almost sure to be a flaw in every such casting, but that they never sold any with flaws that damaged the strength or otherwise injured. I also selected the ⅜ D lenses as you told me. I looked through quite a number, on the microscope, but found them as the man told me they should all nearly alike, I selected one however which I thought defined, & brought the whole field into focus at once best.

I forgot to tell you that shortly after my arrival here I received a note from Oliver & Boyd saying that the electrotypes would cost about £2 "10 (I think) & would be heavy for freight

& asking if it would not be better to send the Original blocks for use. I did not know exactly what to say, but on thinking it over, thought that you must have considered the cost & before & that it would be best not to make any alteration. So I wrote back saying that I did not think you would like to risk the original blocks across the Atlantic &c and to go on with the Electotypes. I don't know if this was right, but thought it best to do so under the circumstances.

Prof Huxley declined to give any opinion whatever on the cast but said if he saw the specimen he would have a decided opinion. I afterwards saw Prof Etheridge in the museum. I was rather in a quandry what to do, from what Huxley had said, and he, (without giving any opinion on the jaw) said that as Prof Huxley declined to give any, and as there was no hurry, no one being likely to describe ~~them~~ it before you, I had perhaps better write to Dallas asking him to put it off till further notice. I did so & got a reply from him saying that Huxley as president fixed the reading of the papers & would no doubt know what to do with that one. So that I suppose it will

be all right. I will however try to call on Dalle Ross will no doubt explain what I said about the flow &c in their letter to you. As you did not mention how the Kelvin was to be sent I said that they had better send it in the usual way.
A very handy blowpipe burner which simply slips into a Bunsen, and which we use in the laboratory. I will send by sample post next Thursday if I can. It only costs 8d or 9d.

With Best love

Believe me yours affectionate son

George M. Dawson.

P.S.

I dined with Sir C Lyell for the second time today. He asked me not to write to you without remembering Him to you, I said that having so much on hand, he had not been able to answer your letters, but would do so soon & look up all unanswered ones, to see if he had forgotten anything requiring an answer. Please excuse the disjointed character of this letter as somehow, today I do not seem capable of writing one decent sentence

G M D.

G McDawson
Nov/69