



Montreal. Thursday, May 5,  
1870.

Dear Papa,

I received your kind letter yesterday, & have brought those fossils in, & Anna is drawing them. I am very glad to hear that you had such a smooth passage.

With regard to those Scholarships & Exhibitions, I want to know whether you think I had better go in for one or not. I have counted up the number of lines in the classics to be gone over for the examination, & I find the total number, exclusive of Lucian's "Timon", & Salust's "Conspiracy of Cataline", to be 6,245 lines. Of these I have ~~written out at various~~ ~~various~~ done at school 2260 lines, which I have written out, leaving a remainder of 3985 lines to be done, besides the works I mentioned before & Arnold's Latin & Greek Prose composition. We have holidays from the end of June till the 14<sup>th</sup> September, that is, (leaving out Sundays) 65 days; leaving 20

days for the Lucian, Salust, & Arnold's,  
there remain 45 days for the 3985 lines,  
that is, 88½ lines will have to be  
done in a day to get through. This  
is pretty hard work, so that if I  
am to go in for one I had better  
begin to study in any spare time  
I may have.

They have begun to dig the  
foundation for Thos. Workman's house  
but have not got down into the clay  
yet. I was reading in  
a book that Mr. Murray lent me (about  
Homer) that when the letters were  
first introduced by Cadmus into Greece  
that the letters which now represent  
vowels were all breathings or consonants  
& that the Greeks changed them into  
symbols for the ~~v~~ vowel sounds.

Thus H (eta) stood for H or the rough  
breathing as is proved by old inscriptions  
& U stood for V. This would give  
a strong proof (if correct) for the  
Hebrew א, ו, ח not being vowels, but  
consonants, as the Greek Alphabet was  
borrowed from the Phoenicians.

I remain your affectionate son,  
W. S. What is meant by the  
Scholarships being "tenable  
for two years"?

William.