



London June 25. /71

Dear Papa.

I sent off your fassels & pamphlets to Messrs Sampson Low & Co two or three days ago, & hope that you will receive them all safely in due course.

I have not spoken to Prof Ramsay lately about my Summer work, but from what he said ~~earlier~~ I think he considers that it is quite settled, & that I will go as soon as the School of Mines breaks up. He is working very busily at present at the report of the Coal Commission, which as you know was constituted some time ago with the purpose of ascertaining how

much available coal remained.
I believe they are going to publish a
map with the coal existing at various
depths marked on it. He showed me
a very neat dodge the other day for
finding the number of square miles in
these tracts. I believe it is the invention
of our Darwin. You cut to scale a piece
of best tracing paper; representing say 100
square miles. This is carefully weighed.
The area to be calculated is then exactly
covered with a piece of similar tracing
paper. The weight ascertained, & the area
calculated from that formerly weighed.
Prof Ramsey said he found it very accurate.
I daresay you have heard of it before.

I think what you wrote in your last
with regard to next session's work, will
be about the best plan, namely to
take the mining division, & what of
the Geological Dept. whether I pass in
Palaeont. this session or not.

With regard to the employment of students. Those going in for the biological division are comparatively few & many do so with the idea of going on the survey. Those from the mining divisions are very often in some way connected with mines. Those from the metallurgical are variously employed. Several having got offices in connection with the mint. Percy however looks after the students more than the other professors, & it is understood that he has frequent applications, & can generally find berths for the associates in his subject.

As for staying another year here, or in Germany. It would no doubt be very advantageous. Many of the fellows go for a while to Freiberg where they take up mining in a very practical manner.

I should not like to stay away
from home however any longer
than necessary. Though perhaps
after going home. If nothing turned up
in the way of employment, it might
be well to do something of the kind.

I hope you will have plenty students
entering for the practical course next
Session. The only weak point seems
to be the prof of Mining. Harrington is
a very clever fellow, but ~~hardly~~ hardly
think he can teach mining profitably
when he has had nothing practical to
do with mines, & perhaps has never been
down one in his life. Especially as
Mining is so essentially a practical
subject.

Believe me your affectionate son

George W. Dawson