

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
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ACC. NO. 2211 | 53  
REF. 4

London Decr 31, 91

Dear Papa,

I went up to Swifts on  
Thursday & ordered one of the  
University Students' microscopes. He is  
very busy & so I may have to wait some  
little time, but this will not matter much  
as work begins again on Wednesday &  
I will have plenty to do without going  
in for microscopy. I wrote for & got  
a price list of Gundlach objectives. (Baker  
is the London agent) The powers up to  
about  $\frac{1}{4}$  in are really hardly at all  
cheaper than Swifts so that it would  
seem to be no advantage to go in  
for them. The great difference seems



to be in his very high powers

His  $\frac{1}{16}$  immersion for instance being  
£ 3-5-0. I think on the whole my last  
plan will be to take the 1 in  $\delta \frac{1}{4}$  in  
as they go with Dwyer's instrument.

I collected a good deal of diatom  
material in Cumberland,  $\delta$  about a  
month ago put some of the dry weed  $\delta$   
mud into a bottle of water to see if  
anything would come to life. One evening  
last week I examined it  $\delta$  found some  
beautiful vorticellas. I made out their  
structure capitally by putting a very small  
drop of mauve dye at the edge of the  
thin glass cover. It slowly diffused  
into the water  $\delta$  when, under the microscope  
the field had hardly a shade of purple the  
vorticellae began to become quite a bright  
mauve  $\delta$  their cilia  $\delta$  internal structures  
came out beautifully. They did not quite

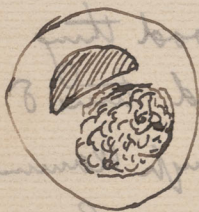


Seen to like the process, & many of them  
by manifold exertions got off their stalks  
& began rushing about the small  
ocean, only to get into districts more  
infected with the dye where they soon died.

In the same stuff were some desmids.

Their endochrome had in drying up caked  
into a very solid looking, small, bright blue-  
green coloured mass in the centre of each.

Now after their months soaking many are  
coming to life again & another mass of  
living endochrome having its normal  
granular appearance & yellowish-green  
colour is seen beside, & apparently arising  
from the dried cake.



I was at Dr Parker's to  
dinner one evening last week  
he has quite finished his development  
of the Salmon & is going to begin  
on that of the fig. He has got 2000  
& bottles full of them in all stages. Dr  
Carpenter was there, & I heard a



about the Circumnavigation Trip which  
will probably sail about next October.  
What a Splendid excursion it will be  
for the lucky individuals included in  
the party. Young Parker is at home  
for his Xmas holidays. I think I told  
you he has got a situation teaching  
Science at a School or College in  
Yorkshire. I think he gets about £100 a  
year but does not seem to like it very  
much as he has to look after the boys  
so much, & he at work so constantly  
that he gets no time to himself at all.

I suppose you don't know of anything in  
Canada that would suit him.

I have been thinking what a good thing  
it would be if somebody had time &  
money enough to make thorough examinations  
Geologically, of Oceanic islands, especially  
Volcanic Islands. Where rocks laid down  
at the bottom of the sea & not otherwise



accessible might be found & brought  
to the surface, either by local upheaval, or  
perhaps at times as blocks ejected by the  
Volcano. These rocks might show what  
the oceanic deposits were in tertiary  
times & parts of the Mesozoic of which at-  
present we only know the in-shore formations.

They might prove the continuance for  
long geological periods of the present-  
ocean depressions, or again by showing  
littoral or land conditions might give  
important evidence as to the former  
migrations & spread of species. Has  
anyone done anything in the examination  
of such islands?

Jan 4. 72.

I had almost finished adding up my acct  
& intended to get up in time this morning  
to complete it. But when I woke I was  
nearly 9 & so I shall not be able to send till

next week. Very many thanks for the  
pocket-book received this morning, also for the  
exam papers of the Ladies association.

I write this at the Laboratory, so please excuse

Yours affectionate Son  
George

the occurrence of the  
times of the year of which we  
present we only know the in-  
formation for  
they might have the  
any geological forms of the present  
over depression, or  
alterations or but  
important evidence as to the former  
injection & spread of  
purpose have  
of but

Jan 4. 72

I had almost finished writing of my  
I intended to put up in the  
I thought it best to  
sent a few lines out to you & send the