

London March 24, 72

Georg W.D.

Dear Papa

I saw Prof Ramsey yesterday
& he spoke to me about your letter to him.
He is very busy at present on account
of his promotion, & asks me to make
excuse for his not writing. There are at
present four vacancies on the Survey here
but there is a row on, between the Survey &
the S. Kensington People, & for the time no
appointments are made. Ramsey wants to
abolish the Civil Service exam. Heretofore Selection
has only been allowed among those who have
passed it, & Ramsey finds that many fellows
they know to be good are flucked, & others
who are no use get through. Coll for example
was flucked (about all things!) in arithmetic,
& holds his appointment on very uncertain
tenure.

Puz R. has sent in a strong remonstrance to the Treasury people, & hopes to have the thing settled soon. If arranged as he wishes, he says he might probably be able to find me an appointment on the Survey. However in any case I should not care to go on the Survey without some thought, for the pay is very small, & advance almost hopeless, as the number of Senior Geologists is very small, & everybody would have preference to the last-comer.

I have got my microscope at last, & am delighted with it. I have tested it & examined it in every way & think it very well made indeed. The frame of stand is neat & steady. I tried Swifts first & second class lenses, & as I found the former considerably better, & the difference in price not great, took the former.

I remain with all love

Your affectionate Son

George

Nature has not yet arrived this week, & so I will have to spend two or three nights.