

Widues
Lancaster, Miss.
Sept 12th 1879

My dear Dr. Dawson,

I have been wanting to answer
your letter until I could comply with your
request & send you a photograph in return for the
one you kindly sent to me in yours last.
Enclosed I send you one taken a few weeks
since; the photographers here are doing nothing
but the gelatine plates, this was taken in
3 1/2 secs. I got the operator to allow me to see
the development. I was much pleased with
the process & fancy it will put a great power
into the hands of travellers, being such a vast
improvement on the old dry plates.

I must thank you for sending me the papers
you send from time to time; I am rather
removed from the Scientific world but am still
able to take an interest in such matters.

My father's work on the inclusions in Granite
will be finished shortly & I will see that a
copy is forwarded to you; His opinion after
an exhaustive chemical and microscopical
examination of these bodies coincides

very closely with your views; that is
that some are distinctly enclosed
fragments whilst others are aggregations
of some of the constituents of the granite
itself. I have done no scientific work
myself but in the spring read a paper
on "Igneous Textures" a copy of which I
sent you. The Royal Commission having
so recently issued an exhaustive report
on the subject my paper naturally
consists chiefly of a digest of their
probable volume. You will no doubt
have heard something of the losses the
School of Mines has sustained in the
deaths of Valentine & Reeks. The
former was about to leave owing to some
row with Fremantle as to salary;
a subscription was set on foot with a view
to giving him a testimonial but before
any money had been obtained he
died suddenly; leaving his family in
bad circumstances. The fund,
destined for a testimonial, is now
being raised for the benefit of the
widow & will I hope be liberally

supported. Ricks died of inflammation
of the lungs, (or congestion of vessel
after a short illness: F. W. Riddle.
Then when it would be difficult to find
a better man is installed in his place
as registrar. I have just returned from
a short stay in Cornwall which, with-
standing rather bad weather, I enjoyed
greatly. I had a couple of riding horses
during my stay in my list of ~~things~~
was able to make long excursions in the
neighbourhood which is exceedingly pretty.
When last I saw Saw he desired me
to send his kind regards when next I write
to you; he is still working away at abstract
ing Patents & tho' he has been "engaged"
some time does not seem any nearer to
quitting - His father, whom you will
not doubt remember as a tolerably hale old
man, is breaking up rapidly & will I
fancy never leave his room again, in
fact I fancy a severe winter would probably
finish him - Should you carry into
execution your idea of visiting England
you must give me due notice; I could
generally offer you a bed here in Liverpool

& my people would be happy to
put you up in London
I should very much like to see
you in some of your rambles in the
far West & if it were not that business
is doing well for me in a pecuniary
point of view I should feel inclined
to go in for twelve months rambling.

I say advisedly that business does
not pecuniarily for me, mentally
I am fast becoming frigid.

I would think of studying Italian
I am rather fond of languages & hope
if all be well to visit Italy next
year in which case a knowledge
of the language would be an immense
advantage. The great commercial
depression under which we have been
so long suffering is I hope beginning to
decrease, but I fear the immense amount
of grain we have had may retard
the improvement by spoiling the crops.

Yours Very Truly
Arthur G. Phillips.