Galton, Francis to his Family

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1841

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f. 1r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS
1/4/9

My dear Father

I set off at 2 this afternoon for Paris where I intend to stay till the end of the Vacation, that is to say I should have done, but that plaguey thing conscience prevented me – The placards about Boulogne Steamers looked very tempting.

I have just been to Bramah about my lock was more than 1½ hour with his [redacted] Footsaweger man who was in raptures & more deferential he thinks about it to day & I call again on Monday to explain anything that he may

not fully understand. I enter my caveat for ~~[illegible]~~ on Monday. Now for proceedings –

Arrived at Brum at 8½ pm. theatre & whiskey grog till 12½. was shut up with a frowsy fat old gentleman & a fast young gentleman in the county whose lungs were, judging by his breath, entirely composed of full flavoured Cubas, and the cream of the Valley. The latter was not a very pleasant companion for vinous fumes ascending into his cranium displaced what reason had existed there, & shewed its presence by causing him primarily to carol forth Nix my dolly pals – 2nd to sing a very sentimental song & at last to open the window & afford me a very convincing proof that gin and cigars act as a

strong emetic – Fell asleep & awoke about 10 miles from Bristol. Coach coach had had an accident waited an hour till it was mended occupying my time in eating 2 eggs 2 slices of beef 2 plates of muffins & half a quartern loaf & then sallied forth & studied St Mary de Port – ~~I~~ went to coach box seat a provincial medical man sitting behind with 2 friends we got into a dreadful quarrel about homoeopathy & as he was giving in & I was blarneying about Hippocrates. a gust of wind ~~[illegible]~~ carried my patent Gossamer hat down a steep hill into the middle of a road (what was more natural than that beaver should take to water) The guard reclaimed it but it presented the appearance of a chemical filter  as well it might for on dissection I found that its substance was composed

of brown paper. the day was beautiful
arrived at Crop, Grattan had been in the morning
to meet the first coach & had gone away again, & I
~~[illegible]~~ gigged it to Doxton. Sun shine, quite
mild. Somersetshire is really the most beautiful
country I have ever seen {for Bery north of the Alps}
and of all dull pig headed stupid bipeds the
Somersetshire clown stands pre-eminent. Arrived
at Doxton the Manor house commodious but
not gaudy ~~[illegible]~~ Gras: girth visibly increased
Delly all smiles & lawn collar ~~the~~ last mentioned
article being as whitewash to a sepulcre,
or as charity, covering a multitude of deficiencies
They really both look as happy as possibly
dont clash at ~~all~~ being separate all the morning

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GALTON PAPERS

and in the evening whilst Betty writes letters for 2 hours I reads others for 1 quarter Rappy pulls Track (the dog) by his tail & ears alternately causing him to growl ferociously for 1 hour then sleeps 3 ½ & after that both adjourn to the dinner room to relify 3 maids servants & a small boy with a learned commentary on the psalms giving the true interpretation pronunciation & critical dissertation upon the more difficult Hebrew or Chaldee words. Was knocked up next morning at 6 of course fell asleep again but was awoke at 6½ by a cracked dinner ~~&~~ bell in hysterics when the farming men go to their work. got up & the small boy before mentioned brought me a hair

shoes  with nails at the bottom like the teeth of the cog wheel attached to the fly of a 10 horse steam engine. this I found was truly necessary to Somersetshire walking. I am in a great hurry, will finish to morrow – but I must say that Rafy & Delly were most kind. I enjoyed my visit greatly. Rafy works hard at his farm. I sordently take the greatest interest in it. I went to Bath to call upon my Darling Hanie Douglas Hunter. I have no time to write more – How is Charlotte?

Fra. Galton.

Sir

2/

Samuel Pertwee Sutton Esq
19 Lansdowne Place
Leamington.

Thomas Fuller
Senior
29 Jan 1841

f. 4

f. 5r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

Sunday
17 New Wd Spring Garden

My dear Adèle

On arriving at Bath I went at once to my fair flame, but alas! how changed. She plaits her hair German fashion  scrabbing the middle part of it frightfully backwards. Her upper lip overhangs like the thatch of a Ignorbere Cottage, chin retreats so much that when she holds up her head from the lip of the upper lip to the collar bone is as straight as a ruler. Eyes large quick

& intelligent: Front view pretty, side ~~view~~ out of the common way. Her Meeting was exceedingly affectionate, parting remarkably so. Mr Hunter as pale faced & long gilled as ever Mrs Hunter talks & asks questions perpetually with a clack-clack to be likened only to a small watchman's-rattle. Both were very kind & good natured & asked much about you. Jessie has a Butcher sort of expression keeps her mouth shut & is not particularly mad. Ventures an occasional smile & sometimes an observation — Just as I left Kate the Eyard came & asked if I had not a square deal box

f. 6r

because if he had. it had just been taken off to the railroad for Bristol—

~~The ado~~ It seems that the address previously on the box to Miss Galton London was far more conspicuous than Frs. Galton Cambridge. I sent the porter after it with orders that it should be sent to Cambridge

— "Bramah locks my lock much. I enter my caveat for my lamp to morrow

Please send this to Leamington, to save me the trouble of concealing another letter.

Frs. Galton

P.S. Douglas is a very nice girl.

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f.6v

Fra. Galton
28 Jan 1841

My dear Father
Yours
[illegible]

BRISTOL
JA 28
1841
A

27 JA 27
1841

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

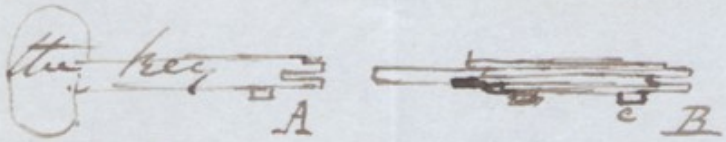
My dear Father.

Lamp & lock both dished but have come off ~~well in~~ honourably in both. Capt. Basil Hall under by Wheatstone had hit upon the same idea a short time since & has since been making experiments. The light appears not advantageous as regards illuminating rooms though it is useful for lighthouses.

As regards my lock. Bramah complimented it, & spoke very ~~well because~~ sensibly about it, he said that it was certainly much more difficult to pick than any one of the same size & of a different construction, but.

the chances were quite great enough for security against a chance key in either the Bramah & Chub, the only thing to be feared was a model being taken of the original key when accidentally left about. now mine being merely ~~adapted~~ a piece of bent wire would be imitated from the impression left on almost ~~any~~ any substance — or traced on paper — whilst his (here he grew cozy) required a very careful modeller & much time to imitate — my lock would also be expensive — This was very true & I quite agree with him, but as regards the security of his lock when the key had been left in the hands of a pickpocket I offered to ~~take~~ make a false key in 5 minutes if he would leave the original key in my hands for 5 seconds — he of course stood up in defence of

his own key so I got 10 knitting pins 5 large & 5 small & one wooden one which was central the others surrounding it. on pressing the central one down the bore of the key. the others one were variously depressed according to the teeth in the key



as in the drawing the other end B of course exactly represents the key (A) the wood (C) is always the same distance from the end & could therefore be fixed to one of the pins. Knitting pins are of course clumsy but with a little contrivance a perfect picklock can be made (the key breadth of the slits is of no consequence only the depth) Branwah was very fierce, I ~~asked~~ told him that I had some intention of patenting the picklock, & advertising "Important to Thieves Housebreakers & others

f. 8v

I enclose a model of one of his chew locks, by first Bramah who was called down to see my brother, he looked angry.

Frs. Galton.

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Francis Galton
London
Jan 1844

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My dear Father

Thanks for letter, Lectures begin to-morrow (Tuesday.) - Poor Hughes! Charlotte's cousin was unable to stand the examination more than 3 days on account of health & so got an honour aegrotat

I was very much vexed about my lamp but am now trying at other things. I have I think a neat plan of making any balance weigh (by double weighing) to the greatest accuracy - I do it by fixing the balance near its center to a bar of steel (magnetic) perpendicularly. The upper end of this carries a steel point which works against ~~one of the poles of a fixed magnet~~ an iron plate, which plate can be screwed down against one of the poles of a fixed magnet, downward, through

the other. When taking out the substance to be weighed place the weights in the same scale pan. Under these circumstances inequality of the lengths of the arms will have no effect in giving an erroneous result, besides, in an ordinary balance, increase of thickness as both the weights & the substance to be weighed were in exactly similar situations. I think that in this way a very accurate balance might be constructed for 10 shillings which would be a desideratum. It will make me -

I am having a Bramah picklock made

I smoke my Turkish or German pipe nightly with somebody else & give Theodore Ian Sacré to drink with it - keep his innocence - it comes uncommon cheap - no man can drink more than three tumblers full or it would make him sick.

I Bride begins on Thursday.

Fra. Galton.

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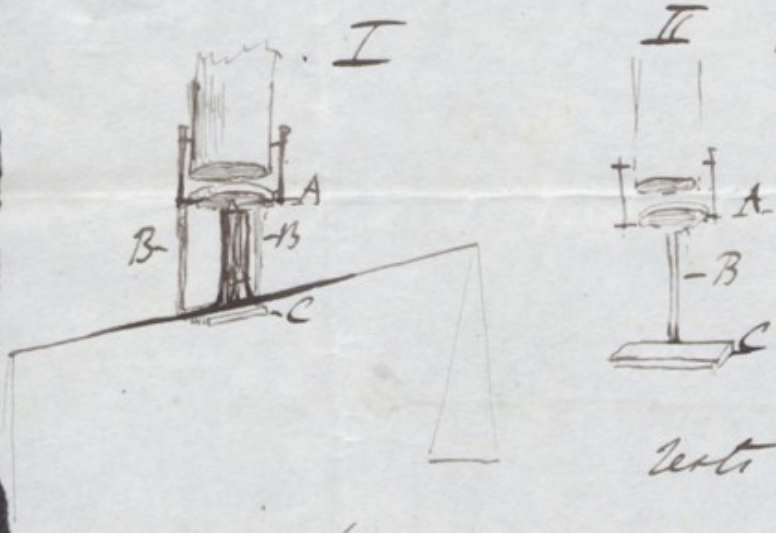
a small space - from this iron plate A ~~hang~~ a



rod B paper vertically downwards to which is attached ~~to~~ a plate on which as in fig I the unsupported scale beam rests. Now if A be screwed up ~~to a~~ nearer and nearer the magnet at a certain point the scale beam will leave C & by the iron point will touch A and be suspended. The least possible friction can be easily ~~arrangeed~~ attained

a small horseshoe magnet that I have in my pocket will lift a heavy bunch of keys in contact with one pole. I do not doubt in getting easily a magnet that will suffice. You probably understand the process of double weighing. It is putting the substance ~~of~~ to be weighed in one scale & some indifferent substance at hand in

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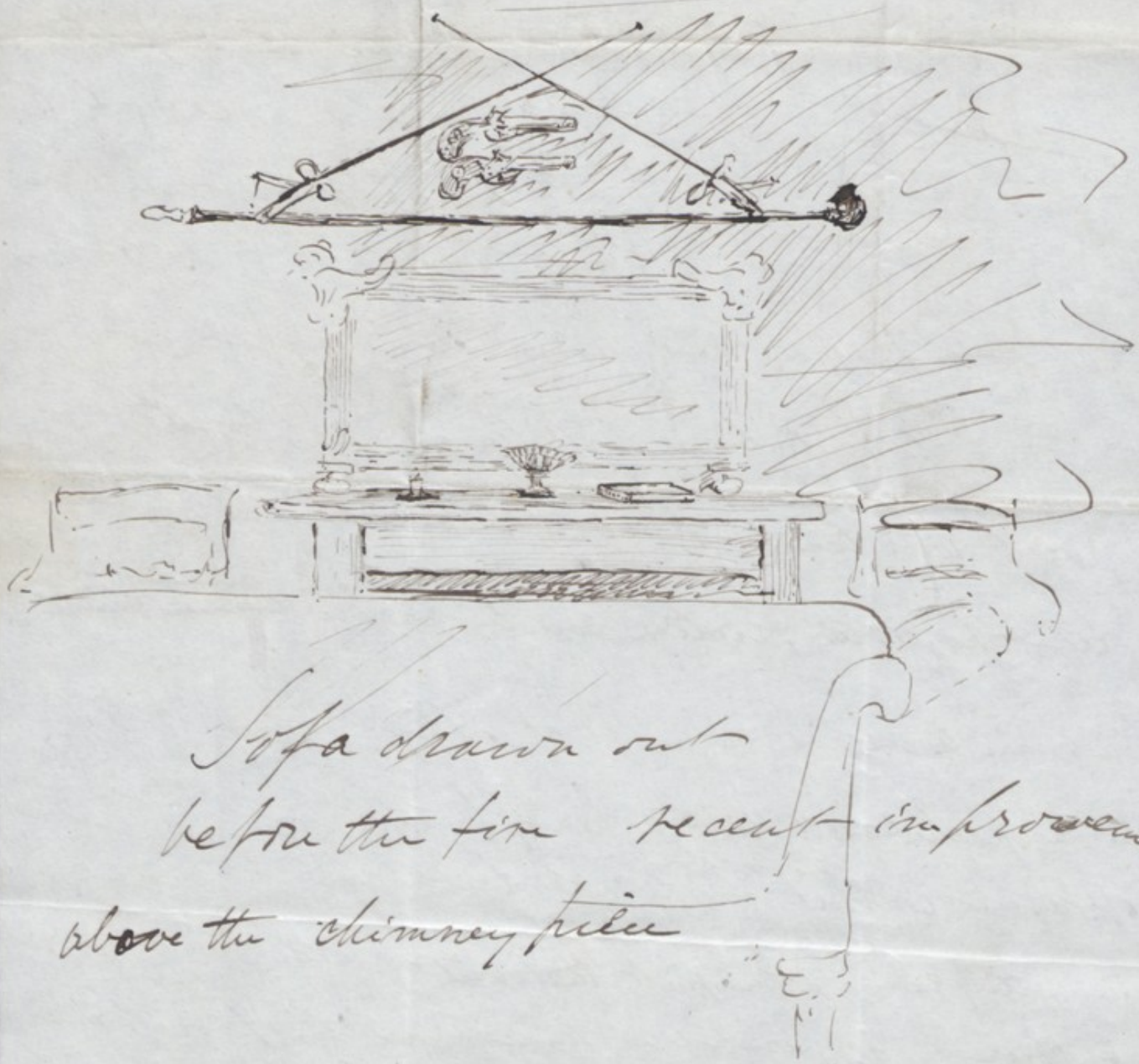

Sofa drawn out
before the fire recent improvements
above the chimney piece

f. 11c

Wednesday.
Trin. Coll

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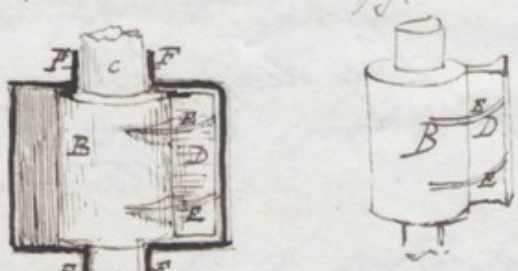
My dear Father

Atwood came down this morning & breakfasted with me & I have left him in the hands of Boulton to Lionie as I am invalided from a relapse of my old illness which came ~~to~~ on on Saturday without any cause to which I can assign it. I am all but well, it has not confined me to my bed but only to my room. Thanks for lecture per post. I am rather mad about a ~~revolving~~ rotatory Steam Engine which I have been contriving. Boulton thinks it will do. advantages being 1st The whole power being

available, crank being absent. 2nd the momentum of the piston increasing the effect & ∴ the rapidity of working being unlimited 3d consequently very small cylinder 4th no fly wheel. 5th exceedingly light

fig (2)

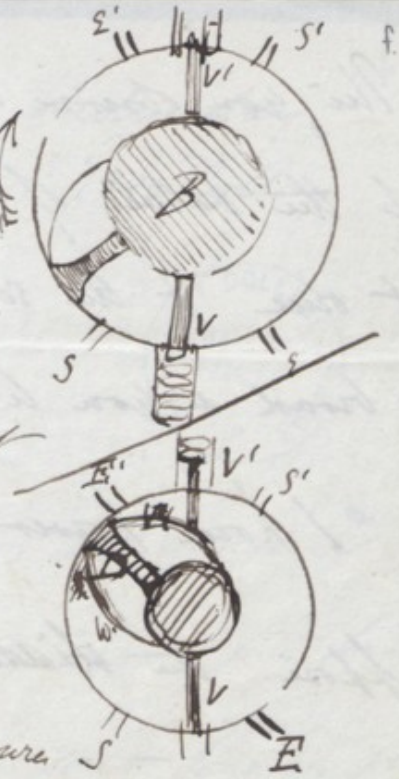


it consists of an outer box like a pill box in shape (A) in which another pill box (B) revolves, having an axis (C) fixed to it passing through the stuffing boxes (FF)

fig 3

this inner box (B) bears a ~~band~~ (D) the extremity of which moves steam tight round the outer box from the edge of D ~~in the direction of its motion~~ on both sides of it two bands flap to ~~the~~ (B) — which are marked (V) (V) are two valves moving in direction of radii & pressed upon by spiral springs so that when left to themselves they press against the inner box as in (fig 3) —

SS' admit steam S.S' let it out.



Let the position of B be as in the diagram S is open E' is open There is no exit for the steam in the direction. V therefore B must rotate in the direction of the arrow as D approaches (V) the band (W) raises V' (W) has in the 3 first figures been called E) before it passes under E' E' shuts & E opens as now there is a free communication on both sides of V' the band D drives the steam before it through E instead as before through E' D then passes under V' & as it goes on W' slides down the band W' on the other side of it. but V' does not close completly till D is on the other side of S' when S' opens & S' shut, D is on

(it is to be remembered that (W) are merely bands of metal as in fig 2)

This you observe is exceedingly simple the motion of the valves of S, S', Σ, Σ', can be communicated at once & the edges of the valves & vane may be as broad as you like Now for its power

1 horse power raises 33.000 lbs 1 foot in 1 minute

Suppose the ~~diameter~~ inner circumf: of outer box = 6 inches

— — — — outer — — — — inner — — = 2 inches

the mean ~~diameter~~ radius of vane would be 2 inches

& its ~~[illegible]~~ length 1 inches

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let the height be one inch

then 1 rotation of the valve = 1 square inch

moving forward 2 inches since the mean radius of the ~~valve~~ vane is 2 inches

now 33.000 ~~lbs~~ 1 foot per minute

= 550 lbs 1 feet per second = 550 revolutions under a pressure of 1 lb per second = 37 revolutions under pressure of 15 lbs ~~of~~ or one atmosphere per second. Now it could easily accomplish 10 in a second ∴ ~~[illegible]~~ with a pressure of 4 atmospheres an engine of size above described ≏ 1 horse power. Prof. Gale

f. 13v

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F
PAID
FE

Paid

CAMBRIDGE
FEB

J Tertius Galton Esq
Lansdowne Place
Leamington.

Mr J Galton
Sandwich
9 Feb 1841

f. 14r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

Dear Emma

I send you 17 shillings worth of etchings &c – Some of them by C. Stanfield are exceedingly good. I was unable to get some outlines by Rembrandt – which I was anxious to have done –

I am very sorry that my Father is so unwell. perhaps this attack will do for asthma & all

Yesterday I made my appearance before the eyes of wondering Cantabs

where do you think? Why right in the midst of a den containing 1 Lion 1 Lioness 1 huge Bengal Tiger & 4 Leopards. (in Wombwell's menagerie.) The Lion snarled awfully. I was a wee frightened for the Brute crouched to – The keeper told me that I was only the 4th that had entered that den

Nothing like making oneself a "Lion" at Cambridge. My Turkish tour & Medical Education does wonders & my late Van [redacted] Amburg performance (promises to crown) it by depulation.

F.G.

f. 15r

P.S. I send a bits I had of a Street in Smyrna - thinking that it would make a very good picture à la Prout.

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GALTON
PAPERS

f. 15v

Fra. Galton

Mar 1841

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to E. J. G

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f. 16r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON
PAPERS

Sunday. 21 Mar 1841
Prin Coll

My dear Father.

Thanks for your letter. To-morrow I will see if Mottock has received the £20. I will send my account. Thanks greatly about Aberystwith.

I am rather cut up by the sudden death of a College friend of mine - Poor fellow he dined with me last Tuesday walked with me next ~~day~~ day complaining only of a slight headache. I heard that he was ill yesterday on Saturday morning & going to see him after hall at 5 p.m. found him dying, with what I took to be typhus, called again at 9 he was much worse & evidently could not hold out 6 hours. An eruption

of scarlet fever had broken out. He died at 12.

He was one of the most kind-hearted fellows I ever met with, he had just taken his degree & was going into orders. & had begun hospital attendence that he might be of use in his parish. He thus ~~caught~~ caught the scarlet fever & is dead

He was a very great friend of Hughes

It is curious that I have as yet lost only 7 Schoolfellows or fellow collegiates that I really cared for. & every one of these have died of scarlet-fever or typhus & all except one within 3 days warning

How fearfully death intrudes in the midst of enjoyment. like the skeleton at the Egyptian's feast. It is remarked by Mr. Mech: (I think) that the shock from the sudden loss of a friend is the only feeling which the mind cannot become callous to. The regard of death seems ~~seem~~ in no way to diminish it. Death in a hospital one sees upon as doomed men, & their death

takes place as in the natural order of things. A friend appears
part of ourself, & when he dies, one contemplates the grave
where he is laid in as [redacted] ready to receive ~~myself~~ ourself.
We then know that we are mortal, &c. However this kind
of language is out of place to you at home in the midst
of marriage festivities. &c. I received no cake
with your letter!

Good bye Yours truly Frs Galton.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON
PAPERS

Wm. Galley
Cambridge
21 Mar 1841

Charles Lewis Esq.
24 Chancery Lane
London

f. 18r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father.

I saw Hodgson in Birmingham who approved altogether of my plans – Evans was not at home Dr Booth on my mentioning it to him lifted up both of his hands ejaculated Haugh! & said is that at the instigation of Hodgson – hearing that Hodgson approved he launched out diametrically opposite & got so sulky that I beat a speedy retreat –

I have on reconsidering reconsulting & I determined to ~~abi~~ abide the Trin^y Examination. as I shd be

have not to get the Cairn prize as they have two very superior men there & as they take up slightly different subjects – but to do my best for a Trinity first class & to migrate afterwards.

On arriving at Cambridge I found Uncle Herbert card in my rooms & himself with my Aunt Ina & Jo – at the Bull. They set off early the next morning to Norfolk

I did not send the wire because I could get none but will send some from Cambridge on the 1st opportunity. It is called [redacted] Metallic line

Hodgson does not think Betty well. He talked much about her, but thinks it advisable to

wait till her return from London before making any alteration whatever in her plan of living &c, hoping that change will do her good -

Good bye I believe me Ever Yours truly

Fra.s Galton.

Trin Coll April 1841

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON
PAPERS

Samuel Tertius Galton Esq.
Claverdon
Nr Henley in Arden
Warwickshire.

My dear Father
Lambeth
8 April 1841

F. 20r

Trin Coll.
April 18th

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father.

No letter of yours, whether received at school announcing that I might come home a week before my time, or whether containing a cheque on Barclay Bevan Tritton & Co ever came more gratefully than the one I have just received to say that my Mathematical MSS were at Clarendon. I have been latterly in despair owing to their loss. I hadn't hunted for them before leaving Clarendon, but found them when I looked every where in Cambridge & was v.y disappointed.

They are invaluable. all the talent of Berry O'Brien & Mathison are condensed into those papers. Therefore please take the greatest care of them. burn the Dudderton title-deeds if you will, but preserve those manuscripts.

if you have seen the compassion that glimmers in a ~~butt~~ butcher's breast whilst he sticks a pig. ~~of~~ or in Majendie's whilst he runs needles into the brain of ~~a~~ living dog, send them immediately. Till I receive them I am desperate.

I am very glad to hear ~~H~~ Holland's report of Kaspy. please tell me all you hear about her.

Dont forget the MSS papers. if you do, may the spirit of gout tweak you to remembrance!!!

P.S. please remember the Manuscripts – send them immediately.

Good bye yours truly Wm. Gallie

Wm. Gallie
April 1841

f. 21r

Saturday May 1st

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father.

I received 20s 8 days since your letter with good news about Betsy & bad news about yourself, for which thanks. (I don't mean specially the latter part.) I have also received 1 dozen of port marked "very old."

Sir F. Galton
MS 1844 1875
f. 21r

O'Brien told me the day before yesterday that I must certainly read with Hopkins next October, & on my saying that I would rather remain with him he strongly recommended me not. Now this has made me very humptious. It does great credit to O'Brien for his openness, as of course tutors prefer to keep the better men. As he stays in Cambridge during the long vacation, (poor man, he is married) which is very dull & hot during Summer.

I go with Matthison our Mathematical Lecturer to Keswick in Cumberland - with ~~other~~ a party to read. The terms are £30

for about 3 months & the life we lead a very pleasant & inexpensive one, certainly much cheaper than in College – Bye the Bye we are turned out of our rooms during the long Vacation.

I have been obliged to take a half classical Coach for the approaching College Examination (in about 4 weeks)

Now you must not expect me to be first Mathematic in Trinity I do not expect it myself. as amongst other very good men, there are some who have already read exceedingly high, and who know their early subjects very well – I hope to do better in each succeeding Examination, but ill health, for I severely overstrained myself my first term, & I feel convinced that to have read during the Xmas Vacation wd have been madness, has necessarily kept me back – But with no more Excuses, as there is much truth in what St Jerome used to say – Good bye Your affectionate Son

Rd Galton.

f. 22r

Dear Betsy

Many thanks for your letter received this morning – It wasn't bad – I am rather headachy now, but will write soon.

– Please ask Pater if he can find in my account at the end of the October term money paid for Medicine about £.3. – I am nearly sure that I paid it but have not

f. 22 v

the accept – And the man has kept in his bible

Your very affectionate
& most highly grateful Brother
Frs Galton.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

Francis Galton
May 1861
Aug 26
5 – 41

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

11 June 1841 — f. 23r

Friday Old Hummums
Covent Garden.

Left Cambridge on Tuesday — the Classes are just out —

My dear Father.

I am not yet aware what my place is in all the Math: Subjects — I was fourth in Trigonometry (Mathison told me). & as I did comparatively better in Conics and Algebra I probably am higher in those two — I have done but little Classics & that badly I am in the third class ~~to~~ in which Hodgson the son of the Archdeacon (you may perhaps ~~recall~~ remember reading about his coming off very well indeed in the Classical part of the Bell ~~Scholar~~ Scholarship examination in the Birm: paper.) but not a Math. at all I have scarcely ~~at~~ all about being where I am — as I am as high in Mathes as I expected — You must not forget that, as regards Classics more especially I have to compete with men who have spent their time on them which I have employed in Medicine.

Francis Galton
Old Hummums
11 June 1841.

and it is therefore improbable that I should take a good place amongst them.

The Math. papers were exceptionally easy this year so that every body who knows anything about them must of necessity do three-fourths. Hence there was but little room for a man to display himself in them. In the algebraical paper there were absolutely only 3 questions not book-work, that is problems. This is too bad. it is also unusual.

I am mooning about town doing one thing or another. dined with the Hubert & Horner's, I ~~stay~~ stay here till Tuesday morning to hear Mdle Rachel's ~~pomp~~ on Monday.

I expect to be in Lamington ~~about~~ Tuesday afternoon.

Alston is in the Old Hummums with Mr Barker.

I have had to invest in a frock coat & ~~two pr of trowsers~~.

My information about Finishes is becoming nightly more extensive. If trunks have been received per Van from Cambridge please let them be unpacked. The key to the Black one is in the Deal one. Your affectionate Son

Fred Galton

Hence as you observe I have not paid my Classical Tutor who had left Cambridge without an address £.7. I have not paid for my Frock Coat which will be about £.5.

I should ∴ be obliged for £5 – £10. as my bill at the Old Hummums will be for a week & I ~~generally~~ take one meal daily. My stock in hand is £. 6. 19. there being a mistake somewhere of 3 shillings in my account.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

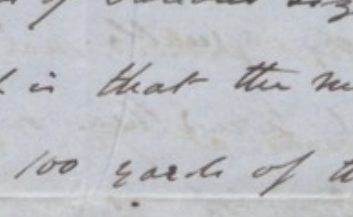
Thursday. July 1st 1841.
Browtop. Keswick.

My dear Father.

As soon as I got to Birmingham I went to Dr Booth, who was very gracious & talkative. his daughter is going to Havre on Monday. & in anticipation has locked up every thing in the house, he however asked me to take a Spartan dinner with him which I accepted. I found part of the hospital in the hands of masons who are lengthening some of the wards so as to make them hold 12 more beds. & are building private rooms for the pupils. Miss Hawkes received me with open arms she really is a good old soul. Hodgson came to see his patients & I walked back to Temple Rows with him, it seems that Mrs Lidsam's death was by no means unexpected, however Mrs Hodgson is much pulled down by it. They talk of making an expedition very shortly to the lakes & Nt. H. asked me to send accounts of Lodgings to him. After dining with the Booths the Dr said that Mrs Clay was going in her phaeton to Selly Hall & offered to resign his place to me which I accepted. Lucy is ~~[illegible]~~ flourishing & in deep mourning. James is about to begin cutting down 70 acres of hay, but I fear that the weather

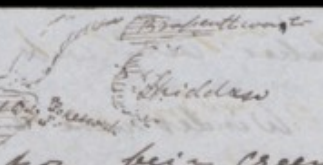
will not be as propitious as he might wish. On returning we met a large mob with flying colours music &c. some say that this approaching election will be anything but a quiet one. My Aunt of course wanted to be off to Havre before it began, but the Dr thinks such flight ignominious, so they wait. I passed the evening, as my Aunt goes to bed in the afternoon, in listening to the stupidest play imaginable at the theater, 7 persons were in the lower boxes which are calculated for about 300. I set off by the ½2 o'clock train in the night & slept without once awaking until we were near Preston, we got to Lancaster at 7½. the castle looks extremely well, as it is extensive & composed of square castellated towers, joined by walls, covering the top & hill sides of a fine green hill. - a florid gothic church has been built, close to & in front of it. I set off at 8 by mail to Kendal. The town was in a bustle owing to the nomination flags trumpets & so forth. I had a very entertaining fellow-traveller he had a hooked nose gold spectacles. was a member of the reform club and a ne-plus-ultra radical - he had travelled & had also been the roving Cantab: we had a red hot argument on politics, which I firmly believe neither of us knew any-thing about. but he would talk about them & as I must answer yes or no Even Bessy will excuse my not assenting to

a radical's ~~says~~ ideas. he knew the lakes very well and told me many legends &c about them. Windermere is said to be a beautiful lake - Wordsworth asserts that it is superior to anything abroad, but I humbly conceive that he thereby shews his patriotism rather than his taste. It is certainly ~~very~~ pretty but very narrow in comparison with its length, & the high mountains on each side apparently reduce this width still more, so that it looks like a river & not a particularly broad one. We passed many other lakes of various sizes having all one common character, which is that the mountains descend very steeply to within 100 yards of the water & then there is a shelving grassy shore thus

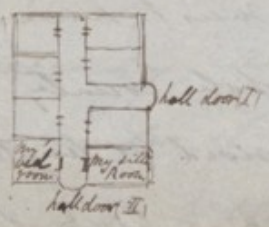


Even more gently sloping than in the sketch so the lakes are never deep. but seem to me that the water must have stood a great deal higher once & that the whole country has had a lift-up.

We arrived at length at Keswick a small stone built & slated town on a plain hardly at all elevated above Derwent water which therefore swamps the land adjacent to it. some distance on in the same plain is Braithwaite Water. Skiddaw is on one side of this plain & a mountain chain on the

other then 

– All the mountains look very pretty from being green, it is nearly every instance, up to the very top. To day is horribly misty. Skiddaw is covered with clouds that reach low down as a Quaker's dress but those on the chain opposite are more à la Fashion. I had intended walking up Skiddaw last night to see the sun rise but it began to rain. Soon after my arrival yesterday I called on the Mr Quintins who were much surprised at my appearance & very agreeable. They had taken Browtop but our party had turned them out so they left it the day before yesterday. Browtop is a very nice house. The habitable part is quite separate from the kitchen & outhouses, it is one story high & a passage down the middle with a bedroom on one side & a sitting room on the other side, then the whole house it £5 per week. I pay 25 shillings. It has a beautiful view. I should have secured it for you but there is nothing but clouds this morning. I am the first of the party that has come. The rest are expected to-morrow.



Good bye your affectionate Son. Fra Galton.

It thus took me 13 hours from Birm: to Keswick!
Direct Post Office as they do not deliver to Browtop.

Frs Galton
Keswick
Cumberland

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GALTON PAPERS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS
f.27

Thursday. July 8th
Browtop.

My dear Father. Being upon my own allowance you must excuse letter paper. In answer to your question. The Apothecaries Bill I owe ~~[illegible]~~, though differing I believe some shillings from the one kept at Blakely. The Hosiers Bill is not mine probably Theodore's — I do not want the boots at Keswick I shall not want present as I always walk in thick shoes. I am very glad to hear about your asthma's want of punctuality this year, should you have an opportunity I wish you would enquire whether the other asthmatic learnings I think I in number have got off equally well, as it would be interesting to ~~[illegible]~~ find out whether some years are more unfavourable than others as is apparently the case in ~~typhus~~ typhus & influenza.

I never enjoyed myself so thoroughly as at present — Matthew and Eddie are thoroughly good-natured. When it is fine we walk out in a body from 2 to 5 when wet play at battledore and shuttlecock or at fives in a most un-studious manner. Eddie you know is a senior-medallist. Bloomfield is the other undergraduate staying at Browtop. The St Quintins are very kind & their son (Charles) very agreable — he rattles off about the Himalya Passes and the scenery of Thibet. & ~~[illegible]~~ totally condemns Hodgson's Mixture — They introduced me to the Parson a Mr Meyers

Francis Galton
Keswick
July 1st 1857

who again introduced me to a Count Ostoiaski (I purposely write the word illegibly & that for an obvious reason) (it consists of "three sneezes & a ski") who is the lion of these parts as being Chemist Botanist Zoologist &c &c and last not least a top-sawyer Animal-Magnetiser. I need scarcely say that we got the greatest allies immediately. he is a very gentlemanly man, he showed me through laboratories hot-houses & monkey cages. made me look through a telescope of "extra million magnifying power" at a lady in the drawing-room of a distant house who was innocently lifting up her eyes to a brass chandelier in poetic raptures. &c &c. He has moreover got me patients to magnetise. lent me books & in short we are the greatest possible allies. he married a rich heiress £4000 a year, who is a very pretty girl 18 years old, he is about 40.

I went to a tea-party with Mathieu & Eddie yesterday at the parsonage (Mr Meyer's), where ~~[illegible]~~ Eddie and myself flirted with and blarneyed an innocent Kerwinkian who would recite poetry out of the Christian {year / era}, to such an extent that she was quite overcome & evidently expected at least one proposal.

I ought to say that as I walked with the Count through his laboratory he introduced me to a Dr Schimolt who was staying with him & working there. I thought I knew both the face and

name & found out that he was one of Liebig's class at Giessen & we had great ~~at~~ amusement in talking over the wine-parties &c after the table-d'hote. He was a great phrenologist & I got him to have my head. he gave me I think a very true character (self esteem was remarkably full), ~~Thus that~~ I have not now the bump of constructiveness very large though he says it is large. Mary's bump is firmness. I described her character and he immediately said that he had observed equally well developed cases. I have just descended from Strathclyde

it is a very steady mountain to go up there being no difficulty whatever. the ~~view~~ view is very extensive including the Isle of Man & Ben Lomond. It was very hot & we pitched into much whisky, and on the strength of it cheered 3 times 3 for God save the Queen – Trinity, &c – Whatever Father Matthew may say there is nothing like hot quantities of whisky ~~of~~ on a mountain top. it would be a splendid way to subject a convert to temptation – Please address in future Browton. as an oblique-eyed inmate of our Seminary having nothing else to do brings up the letters. love to all & each May the critical spirit of Bessy smile on this epistle Good Bye – Your affectionate Son Pat Gallen.

f. 29r

Dear Sophy
I have that this letter is a letter to me but I really have nothing to say for myself write soon & let me know.
Scarborough.
Good bye
I believe me
your affectionate
Francis Galton
Sophy Galton

July 18th 1841 Sunday. Brow top Keswick.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father.

Thank you for your letter. I am very glad that you talk of coming towards the lakes as they are well worth seeing & as a long course of fine weather almost invariably sets in about this time. I do not know of any house in Keswick which you could take (bonâ fide) as they are all small & mostly dark & dirty. The inn is very good, good bedrooms &c. & has been honoured by Queen Adelaide's sleeping in it, if that be any inducement to you, but Ambleside has many good lodging houses. I received the enclosed letter from Christian the day before yesterday. We have had beautiful weather the last 4 days. & have accordingly been making several excursions. to Buttermere, where the celebrated beauty whom Hatfield the robber eloped with some 20 years since lived. & where several uncommonly pretty girls keep up the character of the place still. we have also been up Helvellyn ~~yesterday~~ They said it would take us 3 hours to reach the top, but ~~which took us~~ it occupied only 2½ to get up

stay 25 minutes at the top. & be at the bottom in the other side. The country people are excessively hospitable. they give us no end of milk, oat cakes, home-made cheese &c., &c, & it is difficult to make them take any thing in return, so our plan is to ask if they have children & pick out one of the curly-headed young scamps & visibly slip a shilling or two, according to the probable extent of our united appetites, into his hand. Yesterday after taking a stroll up Skiddaw we went to the perfection of a farm house. a very pretty Creole Niece of the farmer chatted, smiled, gave us milk &c &c & set off a musical snuff box playing, then brought a nosegay & lastly sat down with us to grub. she asked if we were any of the Cambridge gentlemen, & on our saying that we were she told us that 2 or 3 years ago there was a large party at Keswick who were "a sad set of scamps". So you see what a reputation Cambridge has got. Wheewell, wonderful to say, has fallen in love with an Miss Water beauty, Miss Marshall. & is going to marry her. She is very rich & of good family. Our continual conversation at Brockh is in surmises as to how Wheewell would set to work to make

love. he is nearly 50. she a little more than 20.

The St Quintins have gone to Blackpool & by some mishap their pet terrier is left behind. I have had her chained up & have written for further orders.

So Miss Collinson & Mr Aglionby are going to be spliced which one is it? as I only know Catherine & Louisa by name.

I suppose Kitty Sutton will start an Encyclopaedia of rejected addresses like Miss Rayland. In folio one huge X and nine I, Darwin's name & good qualities will be duly registered. How is Mary. & how soon will the baby linen be sorted & aired?

We like Browtop exceedingly. the only fault in the situation of Keswick being that it is in a wide valley so that there are but few walks within a short distance. The hills are all quite green so that we can run down them at a capital place. Mackinson tried sliding down one of them, but he reached the bottom a complete cherub having scarcely occasion to sit, owing to the friction.

I have come from church where there is a parson (Mr Brumby) who cuts his hair like a fancy yew-tree - he is blessed with

a wife half German who talks away intolerably – she is a Roman-Catholic & is always arguing & snubbing every body, whether she knows them or not, who is talking near her. accordingly when her loving spouse got to that part of the evening lesson relating to ~~[illegible]~~ wives, he dropped his hen-pecked, subdued tone, lifted himself on tip-toes, leant over the reading desk & shouted it all out into his wondering wife's ears. – what a curtain lecture he'll get to-night!

We hear that a party of Cantabs at Ambleside, think of migrating to Keswick – it will be a great bore if they come as we are enough already. Armitage the to-be senior wrangler of the February after next is one of them.

(vide 1st Page.

A Cleary Road in Middlesex.

Dear Father
Yours
Bella Mary Pearson

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

f. 31r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON GALTON PAPERS

Beaulieu
Sunday Aug 1st 1841

My dear Father.

I received this morning £15 all correct, enclosed in an envelope stamped "too late." for which thanks. The letter before this one was dated from "N. q. cliff". So they ticket the house as Cabinet curiosities? It is certainly novel and decidedly literary. I suppose that Lucy & James have already arrived. what with them & my two uncles the Galton family will inundate the place, & if the ordinary appetites that accompanies the several branches of the family be present at Scarboro' it will give a very satisfactory interpretation of the N.Q. ticketing. Whewell is undoubtedly under the guardianship of Hymen, though an oyster may be affected by love. a Whewell can't, she has (I understand) been so involved in the metaphysical line that he looks on the approaching

Event with the most philosophical indifference. In Sweden Keswick is to be turned topsy-turvy with amusements. Imprimis a 4. oared race in which your humble servant is to pull. as we get up a boat for the honour of Cambridge. £12 prize. we really shall have a very fair chance. for though the Keswick boatman are trained to pulling from their dash & petticoat age yet they are more in the cart horse line. whilst the description that I heard given of our crew was that they are "intensely plucky." We have great amusement here in scrambling about. Mr Atkinson is a capital walker but not a dab at climbing consequently he occasionally sticks amongst the rocks like a saint in a niche & immoveable without a miracle. We get on capitally at Brownrigg. The order of the day is - Breakfast finished at the clock strikes 9. Reading till 1 or 1½ Lunch walk till 5 dine and chat till 8 Read

(The names of the crew are Atkinson Strickland Gowry Gallop & Cosby Stewarson.)

f. 32r
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

till 10 ~~Pa~~ to 10½ Read to 11 or 12

when a long walk is taken we eschew dinner but our leathern whisky flasks in our pockets, which I am convinced is the true interpretation of "seven leagued boots", and walk from 1 to 8 or 9

We certainly do great things in the walking line instead ~~of~~ "menage-ing our forces" after the Swift regime we scamper up the hills & somehow or other dont get tired, to day I ascended more than $\frac{2}{3}$ds of the height of Skiddaw (drawn back by mist) in 35 minutes. about 2200 feet, this was in Sunday costume & without puggy-fying to any extent.

Dear Bessy. How's the bathing? & how are Francis freckles? ~~I dont know to what extent~~ The amount of washing here is by no means dangerous to beauty as the sun has generally a mass of mist rather thicker than Skiddaw is high to shine

through. It has been miserably cold so that I read with a pea coat on & with my feet on the fire-hob.

In your letter is a quotation from Aunt Habeste a word occurred "oddm... ts" I have looked in Johnson's Dictionary but can find nothing corresponding to it, so I presume that it must have been coined since her time.

Again, there was a passage in your letter ending with 4 notes of admiration combined. This is an excess.

Thirdly, I should recommend a more refined choice of phrases than such as the "weather taking up" - and others of a similar nature. You state "The air is delightful and a beautiful walk along the cliff." I am not ætherial enough to enter into your delights. — (I must bally you) How has Lucy's razor gone off? Please write oftener. Tell me what you had for dinner if you can think of nothing else but to write. Good bye Your affect Brother Pat Gallon.

Johnson's Dictionary

f. 33a r

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

Keswick Browtop
August 18th.

My dear Father

Thank you for your letter. The title of the Guide book that you lent me is "Leigh's Guide to the Lakes" I should not advise you to invest in ~~another~~ a second one as it is the worst published. The best is "Blacks guide" 5. Shillings 6d. It contains one large & 3 or 4 small maps very accurate. You talk of "fear of annoying me with a formal visit" &c. I can assure you that I should enjoy nothing so much as Atwood-ing you over the country. We can give you ~~one~~ dinner occasionally at Browtop. You will find Eddie & Mathilda very agreable. & I really think that the very best thing that you can do is to settle in Keswick for a fortnight ~~or~~ or 3 weeks. If you will give me a commission for lodgings. I will make every enquiry. But boat-racing scheme has been given

up. for on enquiry we find that the competitors must pull on pins not in rollocks . to pull in that manner we unanimously decreed was below the dignity of a Cambridge "oar" as all the beauty & skill of rowing consists in correct feathering which of course is impracticable with pins. It is all together a ridiculous piece of business. There actually is no practising on the lake & consequently the pulling at the race must be worthless

I enclose you the ~~order~~ date I was speaking of. and appeal to your unprejudiced eyes, as to its legibility.

Poor Chance my old schoolfellow & chum is dead. He was my chief friend at St James & also at Kings College where he read classics. He was one of the best fellows that I have met with, & was expected to have distinguished

himself – Poor fellow – he died of consumption.

We have had a visit here from a late fellow commoner of Trinity named Hope. He is son to Lady Beresford & left Cambridge in his 2nd year (Lent term) to get made MP which he now is being about 22 years old – I think Theodore knew him. Yesterday morning I walked up Skiddaw to see the sun rise. I got to the top of the eastern peak which is not 150 feet lower than the highest one in 40 minutes. Of course saw nothing but mist. I shall however try it again to-night. – We have got some faith to our boat at Keswick, it is curious how ~~as~~ frightened all the boatmen here are of them. They never are there. Even the "~~bobby~~" attendant "cad" upon the party, a man ready to poach, knock down, do any thing on an emergency, refused to go into the boat on the ground of having "a wife & 5 small children."

Dear Betsy. I want to ask you about a point of etiquette. There is a Russian Count here with whom I am a great ally. His Count has a very cosy ~~[illegible]~~ very insipid, exceedingly rich, but quite uneducated wife. ~~[illegible]~~ Where I have been introduced to her by the Count, but she merely topes her head & says! "No I do not think so" to every thing that I say. This is her ordinary behaviour to every body. Now I and other strangers (all previously introduced to her) dined there the other day. She did not receive us in the drawing room, but ~~[illegible]~~ sat with her feet on the fender & with her back to the door leaving the Count to do the honours. Now to the point. The Count (a very punctilious man) has left the town leaving the Countess behind. I dined there the other day & have not since ~~called~~. Ought I to call upon the cosy countess? — Good bye Your affectionate Brother Wm. Gallon.

Darlington
Feb. 15th 1854

33br

No 9 - Cliff - Scarborough

23 July 1844

Francis,

We all [illegible]ed here, in-

[illegible] some-lack

33bv

well, tho' the cold wet weather
have had since our arrival
not suited her — Betsy seems
better for the breezes — I am
hear from [illegible] tha
[illegible]

f. 35r

Browtop. August 19th 1861.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father.

Thank you for your letter which I have received this Evening. I hope that you will not give up your plans as regards the lakes, if your only fear is about rainy weather I do not think that you will suffer more in ~~going~~ travelling through Westmoreland than elsewhere, since on comparing the state of the weather here with that which a Cambridge party has had in Devonshire we find that we have had the fewer raining days. This of course does not include misty days.

I have been deluded enough lately to climb mountains to see the sun-rise, it is certainly the best regimen that I know of to cure romance. I for my part never felt less spiritual or more corporeal than I did when I got to the bottom of them.

I had a long walk in that manner the day before yesterday; happening to look out of the window about 12 after reading, I found that it was the most beautiful nights that we had yet had. so pocketing my whisky flask & putting on my sea coat & plaid I walked to the town & got up a party to go. slept under a table for 35 minutes drank some whisky punch & then walked up Blencathra, ignominiously called "Saddleback" stayed on the top about an hour & then got back by 7 a.m. It was about 15 miles. as the morning was splendid I then got up another party for Innerdale. Then slept 25 minutes & walked off — & we walked the whole day. up two high mountains & got back by 8½ p.m., & after all I really was not so very tired. Keswick is at the present moment all wrestling & dancing. The champion in the former has been ~~just~~ declared today having "thrown" some 10 opponents, but even he is now

taken off his legs under the influence of brandy & water. In the dancing department of course I assisted & had for my partner a damsel whom I had observed in the morning employed in the un-poetical position of all-fours. scrubbing stone steps with great diligence. — I have to day committed a most fearful offence in the eye of the law. I happened to be walking in a field when I saw a bull looking intensely ferocious. so I picked up a stone ~~that~~ of a size corresponding to my fears which was therefore very large. that armed I ran to the nearest gate for escape when up jumped a hare. All thoughts of the Game laws vanished, as also of the bull. I threw the stone with a most lucky aim, & knocked the gentleman over, & then I soon got over the gate & gave him the coup-de-grace with my shillelah. I shall eat him to-morrow or the next day. — We are getting very dull, we read the Times through, advertisements & all everyday

and often ask for the catalogue of the circulating library.
Under these circumstances Good Bye & believe me ever

Your affectionate Son Wm Galton.

P.S. I forgot whether I have ever told you that the meaning of my initials (F.G.) in the corner of the letter ~~means~~ is that they are family letters & may be opened without the presence of the person to whom they are addressed being necessary —

Remember me to Theodore.

Mr Galton jun.
Trinwith
19 Aug 1871.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON
PAPERS

f. 371

Wednesday 20th 1846
Trin Coll.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father

I left Leamington, the only Cantab on the coach, by the side of a jolly old Coachman who had been a horse dealer at Northampton & had sold horses to Uncle Robert. he made sundry enquiries after you – On arriving at ~~Berwick~~ Weedon a complete shoal of Cambridge men poured out from one of the ~~Weedon~~ trains amongst whom was Theodore, and three or four other allies of mine, how they all were found places, was a problem ~~where was~~ too deep for the minds of any body there except the Coachman's to surmount – However they hung on the coach like crows on carrion. and a jolly drive we had, according

our adventures to each other. The coach top was unpolished by a freshman. I called on Matthias this morning who skipped about through excess of animal spirits in talking over Norwich and our jollyings over. I then called on a physician who takes me, and I begin with him on Monday. My Norwich friends are all up, two of them full of gratitude for wonderful effects produced by prescription which I had left them, & I have got a new patient. I cannot express the bumptious state I am in looking at four bashful rusticated "cubs" so carefully pulling their gown to make it sit well & fidgety at finding how uncomfortable their cap is which they have unconsciously put on the crowing way, all over as fresh as paint & bless their innocence — So Wheewell is master

I suppose that he will soon come into residence

In haste for Chapel

Your affectionate Son

Fra Galton.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

f. 38v

Francis Galton
Cambridge
20. Oct. 1841

ans^d 22 Oct.

f. 39r

Because we have Friday.
Not as in a great hurry.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

My dear Father

I am very sorry that from having been ~~[illegible]~~ either too lazy or too much occupied ~~[illegible]~~ I have not written sooner, though I consider you too little of an invalid to be ~~[illegible]~~ further anxious about your health.

Emma has probably given you a full account of her proceedings in Cambridge. & I trust rescued

me from her Hodgson's malicious
charge. She was most active
& tired down both Theodore & myself;
thank you very much for your
statement of my accounts they
were certainly most beautifully
written out, and quite a model;
in one point however they were not
quite as useful as otherwise they
might have been for after reading
it through carefully 5 times
I abandoned all hopes of making
out the meaning of one single line, in
utter despair. The words appear

all bewitched, for I cant make out which is substantive & which is nominative case &c &c

As a specimen

"Debtor to balance agreed £.."

Should you have spare time, would you be so kind as to write two or three lines in account book style with their interpretation in popular English. & then I have no doubt but that I shall make out the rest of your paper wh: you so kindly sent me.

My box arrived safely and the books inside in good preser-

f. 40v

Francis Galton

-vation, with the exception of

— Cambridge —

one book right — through which

10. Nov 1874

like Sisera's temples a nob

nail was driven — however

it was only some temperance

tracts bound up & therefore

it is quite immaterial.

Emma was not sure whether

my D'Israeli Curiosities of Literature

was packed up — it is.

I like Hopkins more and more every

day, and I never enjoyed Cambridge

so thoroughly. Love to all

Good bye Your affectionate son

Fra. Galton.

f. 41r

Francis Galton
Cambridge
11 Nov 1841.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON PAPERS

Trinity.
Thursday Evening
Nov – 1841

My dear Father

Thanks for the 2nd edition of my accounts which I received this morning, and still greater thanks for the explanatory notes by Betsy thereunto attached.

Hopkins progresses capitally. I had forgotten to tell you that I find that his charges are only £72 per annum instead of £100 as currently reported. this will make a jolly difference in my finances. Hopkins to use a Cantab: expression is a regular brick. tells funny stories connected with different problems and is ~~any~~ ~~thing but~~ in no way donnish. he rattles on at a splendid pace and makes Mathematics anything but a dry subject by entering thoroughly into its metaphysics. I never enjoyed anything so much before. I made my

first acquaintance with Laplace to day, in one of his theorems. greatly to my satisfaction.

Hughes has not returned to Cambridge. He is an utter Puseyite, he dances much & instructs his partners in the "Talkers" and in their controversies.

Eddis and Matthison both bloom. I wined with the former last night, who decidedly has not recovered from tender impressions received at Keswick. He spoke on walking in the cloisters by moonlight, & quoted Byron - He is therefore hopeless.

I am going to become a member of the Camden Antiquarian Society as being a gentlemanly thing & really very amusing - The subscription is 7 shillings a term untill £.3 has been paid when the subscriber becomes an honorary member

and is released from further subscription, retaining the same privileges.

Whewell is expected next week in Cambridge. He is not Vice Chancellor this year, as Dr Archdall of Emmanuel has been elected to that office.

My cake has been long since gone. As it disappeared it looked like a girl dying of consumption pining away & retaining its sweetness to the last. It was very good. I ingratiated myself much with Mrs Hoppit by sending for her sevenfold offspring and arranging them round the table when I made an equable division of the remains of the cake between myself and them, & afterwards sent them away laughing eating and digesting like steam. Twelve out of the 14 jam pots

still remain free from the encroachments of the enemy, but decidedly in a state of predestination thereunto.

How is my Mother poor? & Mary?

Love to all & Good bye

& believe me ever your affectionate Son

Fra Galton.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON GALTON PAPERS

P.S. I suppose you all know that the meaning of the P.M. on the outside of my letters means that they are family letters to be opened by anybody and merely addressed to some particular person for the satisfaction of the postmaster.—