

Galton, Francis to Elizabeth Wheler [nee Galton] and Emma Galton

Publication/Creation

1866-1886

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/wdj8xbjn>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Feb 2. 1866

f. 1r

Dearest Bepz

I have little doubt
that you have taken very
great pains to make the
best arrangements for Eddy's
Education at this very critical
time of his mental development.

But in the chance that one
matter has been overlooked, I
think it well to mention it.

A couple of weeks ago I
saw both ~~Dr~~ Temple & Wilson,



(the mathematical matters)
in reference to Alston Atkinson's
Education (I dare say you know
who I mean) the arrangements
for which are placed almost
entirely in the hands of myself
& a co-trustee. I found
he was backward in Scholarship
& also in Mathematics - while
at the same time he had
some excellent points. An
engineer had offered to take him
as a pupil. The result

has been that Alaton Atkinson
 a good deal of the regular course of
~~abandon~~ scholarship, in which
 he can learn nothing, their half,
 of value to himself & goes in as
 as the school regulations admit,
 thoroughly the mathematics
 under Wilson.

Now to apply this to Eddy.
 I asked Wilson (whom I know
 well) on this, as I had on
 a former occasion, about Eddy's
 aptitudes. He speaks in
 flattering terms of his mechanical
 aptitudes, but says he is

not mathematically inclined.
 & has not mathematical abilities, as shown at present.
 Now mathematics even of that
 elementary character which a
 boy could learn in $\frac{1}{2}$ a year,
 are confessedly all important
 to success as an Engineer.
 I would therefore urge that (if you
 have not done so) you sh^d make
 enquiries whether Mr Temple
 w^d not advise Eddy going in
^{mainly} for mathematics during the remainder
 of his stay at Rugby just as Atkinson
 has done. — The scholarship that
 Eddy w^d acquire in that time w^d
 be quite insignificant. & this
 is quite clear, he will never again

have no good an opportunity
 as now, of learning mathematics

I am sure you will
 excuse my apparent interference.
 I know so many who have
 deeply regretted & have seriously
 felt the want of a sterling
 stratum of mathematics.

Ever very affect-

Francis Galton.



I am very sorry poor Lucy still
 is delicate - Give her love to
 her.

42 Rutland Gate W
Feb 6. 1866.

My dear Bessy

The importance of a solid substratum of elementary mathematics is I can assure you of an importance, almost ~~like~~ that of a new power, in every profession of life. I see it at every step. Ingenious men without the thoroughness & precision which mathematics alone are sure to give, sink below their natural level when competing in life, with those that have it. I am assured that Engineering

is very far from being an
exception to this rule.

Now the points I urge are these.

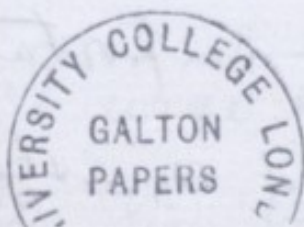
1. Eddy's age is the best
to begin to thoroughly work at
this.
2. He will never be likely to
get such good opportunities
of being taught as now.
3. His time is comparatively
vacant. for he need not be
distracted by scholarship - It
is not worth his while to work
at Latin & Greek with serious
effort.

Of course 'high' mathematics are wholly
out of the question. - I speak ^{now} of a solid knowledge
of elementary mathematics, only.

I wish I could help you
in respect to arrangements abroad.
One most important point would
be to find an establishment where
there was a spirit of self-reliance
& hard & healthy work. — Anything
but a languid, ^{& perhaps immoral} ~~derogatory~~ life.

Have you ever thought of
Switzerland? — The Swiss
all do well. The breed is an
energetic one. ~~and the~~ The engineering too is
bold & cheap & the science
thorough, liberal & advanced.
There would be plenty of ^{Protestant} families
either in French or German Switzerland.
Dresden too is much frequented

now, more than ever. by
 lad to barn Germania. and, I hear,
 they do it.

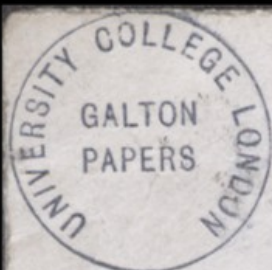


I am very glad Lucy is better
 very likely I may be in Leamington
 next Sunday.

About the newspapers - I will
 please trouble you get a little
 longer. All last year's are
 packed beautifully in a book
 yours & Emma Phillips together.

Affectly. H.

The cannon is banging away on account of
 the opening of Parliament. I saw the Queen Drive in to
 London.



Mr. Wheeler
3 Bertie Terrace
Leamington.

f. 6v



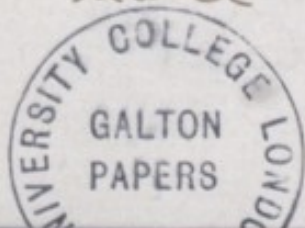
16. Mount Ephraim Road ^{P. 76}
Tunbridge Wells 1086
Sept 22 / 22

Dear Mr. B. B. B.

Thursfield sent me
a full account of poor dear Emma.
I had asked her
her own account, that the tumour
had been of a less serious character,
a mere cyst - not ovarian.

What a mercy it is, that it is
not cancerous or of any other
malignant form. Anne

Like experience of Mrs. B. B. B.
Case will make you understand



and provide for every thing, when
the time arrives. Louisa

& myself with of course do all
we can. I have much

thought over whether it would
be of any gain to her to have
our house, but I am sure
it would not. It is too

distant & not well adapted
for them on account of the
distance from the kitchen to
the bedroom - too many steps!

And at the lodgings in question

there is skilled attendance

& all the "plant" for nursing.

Emma tells us all that is
going on about her case &
we are anxious to hear, as
all must be, the advice
that Spencer will give, give
when she goes up to consult
him.



What a fearful sea you
must have had at Blackpool
a few days since.

If Brighton
parade faces the sea, you
must have had enough of it.

All going on well, but steady,
here. I managed to get

p. 8v

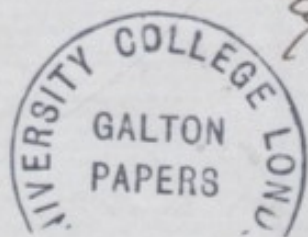
last night to dine specially
with some friends

Affectionately with
love & love to my
Frances Fuller

Dear Bepi Thanks for your
kind enquiries, we have both
discovered the doctor & cat & this
is a brilliant day, but the wind
too keen for much exposure. I
have been very sad about dear
Emma, what a treasure she is to us
all, we could not spare her, we
must hope all will be well, but of
course the operation is a very
serious one & makes one fearful.
I am so glad, you are taking holiday
it will do you good. As soon as we
are strong & well, we would gladly
go to you mother before settling
down for winter, only I fear

I should reckon on staying
 here till towards the middle
 of October, & I want to be home
 by the end of the month, if
 all is well, but of course
 I should not go to Leamington
 any way, unless I am quite
 well, as I would on no
 account add to their number
 of invalids. Your mother, Emma
 Harwood & Temple all
 more or less dilapidated,
 still I do hope in 3 weeks
 to be all right. My love to Lucy

Yours affectionately
 Louisa Gallon



I do not think Emma had any
 suspicion of her real lady.

it might make Emma ex-
herself overmuch, of course
there is no reason why she
should for quiet people like
us, but you know she will,
unless she has learned to
save herself through Dr
Thursfield's advice. I should
like your opinion before we
utter anything, we could
make ourselves an excuse
if you think we should be
hurtful to Emma, otherwise
I know she would like to
have us & this sad illness
of hers makes one more
anxious to be with her.

F. 10r



Mrs Wheeler

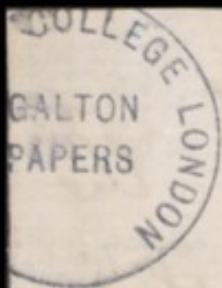
2 Brighton Parade

North Beach

Blackpool

f-10v





f. 11r

Nov 18 /55

42 Rutland Col

My dear Bep,

Overleaf is the
prescription and description.
I heartily hope it may also
succeed with you.

The merits of this, compared
with what I have had before,
lies principally in the spirit
& in the absence of spirit of wine,
be. Those dulled the

ear & disagreed with it; this does
not, but is bland. After

putting it in, of course the hearing
became more defective, as the

wax is softened & plugs the ^{f. 11v} ear effectually; but when the time comes for syringing, ^{the wax} ~~it~~ is all driven away, quite easily. No forcible syringing is wanted but you can't do it ^{properly} yourself, you must have a gentle surgeon.

Heroic surgeons (like Pritchard) appropriate the ear.

Mem: Hamlet's uncle murdered his brother by dropping hellebore into his ear; I protest against being hung, if any ill effects follow my prescribing opium to be dropped into my sister's ear.

What a happy and moist time Edward is having in Devonshire.

Many loves. Affly yr Francis Galton

For softening the wax in the
ears, previously tubing the syringe.
The ^{drops} ~~drops~~ to be used for at least
two clear days, if the wax is hard.

R. Liquor: Opia 3iij
Glycerine 3ss
Soda Bicarb: 3ss
Aque ad 3ij

Some of this ~~with~~ mixed with an
equal bulk of hot water, dropped
or syringed into ear, and allowed
to remain there, whilst lying on
the side, with that ear uppermost,
for a quarter of an hour. To
be done, twice daily.

Nov. 1875.

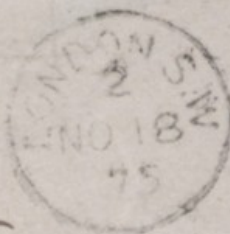
Prescription for
ear 322072

17

Wheler

Bertie Terrace

Leamington



f. 13c



f. 13v

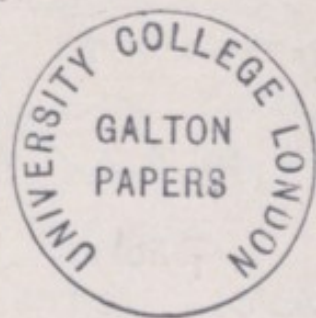
Desjardins

LEA

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
GALTON
PAPERS

42 Rutland Gate
April 22 / 82

f. 14r



Dearest Emma

I feel at times
quite sickened at the loss
of Charles Darwin. I owe
more to him than to any
man living or dead; and
I never entered his presence
without feeling as a man
in the presence of a beloved
Sovereign. He was so
wholly free from petty

sozally minded, so
faults, so helpful &
sympathetic. It is a
rare privilege to have known
such a man, who stands
head & shoulders above his
contemporaries in the sciences
of observation. When the

news came on Thursday I
went to the Royal Society
which met that day & arranged
that a request shd be telegraphed
to the family by the President
in the name of the Royal Society
asking if they would consent to

an indulgent in Westminster
 Abbey to which I have been
 used to believe the Dean
 (who is abroad) will in no
 way object. If so the

funeral will be attended by
 deputations from all the learned
 societies. I wrote to Lord

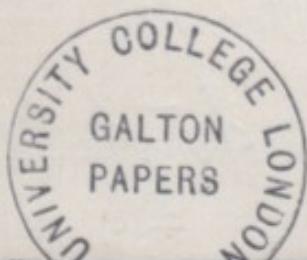
Aberdare who fully consents
 on behalf of the Bazaar
 & who has written accordingly

I was absolutely engaged
 all yesterday (till after dinner
 hour even) & could not learn
 anything. - I hope the first

whether of the same? may yield
 & that Charles Darwin may
 be laid by the side of Newton
 as the two greatest of English
 men of science. I had
 a brief letter from Frank^{1st} ^{Darwin}
 Thursday with nothing however
 in it that was not in the next day
 newspapers.

It was evidently
 the world seems
 to blank & the now Charles
 Darwin is gone. I revered
 & loved him thoroughly.

Ever affectionately
 Francis Galton



W.G. 243

About
Frank

very interesting

Letters from
about
Charles
Darwin

(114) f. 46r



Miss E. S. Galton,

5 Bertie Terrace,

Leamington



Galton Papers
W.G. 243

F-16V

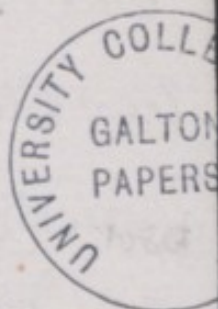


42 Rutland Gate f. 17r
May 5/83

Dearest Emma

At length, I have
simultaneously in hand the
3^d worth of stamps that I
owe you and a note to send
them in; so here they are. We
hear that Cyril uses his
cap daily, so the present has
been a success.

I am very sorry that the
chapter in my book to which
you allude, gives you any
pain or might give any other,



but I am sure you will
recognize that it deals with
a mere matter of fact & observation
also that it is one's duty to be
truthful. If my facts and

observations are wrong, they
will be shown to be so, and
no one will be more ready to
acknowledge it than I should be.

but I must say, that when
it was first published the
large amount of controversy that
it raised did not succeed, to
my mind, in shaking my conclusions
in any way. We must

f. 18r

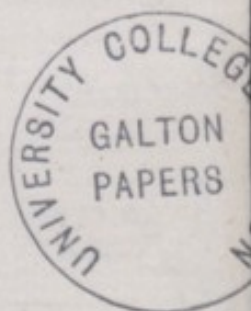
be reasonable, even though
sentiment or education may
be at first contradicted &
man is left shocked. Just
think of the horror that the
practical beliefs^{own} of ~~ourselves~~
& of those who think in the
same way, would have excited
a few centuries ago. Why ~~one~~
would have been actually burned
as heretics! I take the

responsibility of writing my views
because I am conscious of having
given as much serious & honest
attention to the subject as anyone.

& I have friends who have urged
me to write. It is one of the
few services that a man situated
like myself can do, to take up
an unpopular side when he knows
it to be the true one.

No reviews are yet out of the book.
I have not heard much of it yet
from friends, but what I have
heard has been very appreciative.
However I feel in my own mind
tired of sitting here & there, & for
a while, in hot water.

Three or four days ago
Louisa went for a night to
Harrow. I had a dinner



(2) F. 19r
engagement in London, and
spent the next day in a most
enjoyable excursion to Sping
Forest. You have no idea

how interesting it is to any one
who leaves the roads & scrambles
about it. I got between

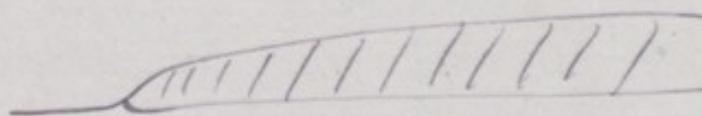
5 & 6 hours steady walking in
as wild a bit of country as one
could find anywhere with beautiful
clumps of pollard beeches here &
there; & hardly saw a soul.
Not a single pedestrian like
myself.

Sir Fowell Buxton
is one of the 'verdoers' & takes
great interest in it. It is



p. 19v

a long strip between 2 lines of railways



that are only 2 meters or so apart,
like the arms of a tuning fork,
& there is a big road right down
its middle; nevertheless space
remains on each side for complete
width. Hyde Park

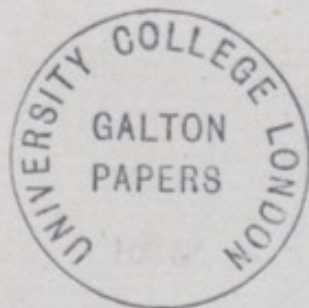
corner looks to open now, with
broad roads, & the Duke's statue
temporary on the ground is very
disemulated and odd in appearance.

I dined with Borman last night
(he is Sec^y of the Royal Institution) &
went to Scott's lecture there on 'Forecasts'
afterwards. We were at the
private view of the R. Academy

yesterday, of which you will have
seen plenty in the papers. We

shall be so pleased to have you
a month hence. Louisa has
been setting curtains up in the
drawing room.

Ever very
affectionately Francis Galton



f. 21c



Keep this
abt. Frank's book

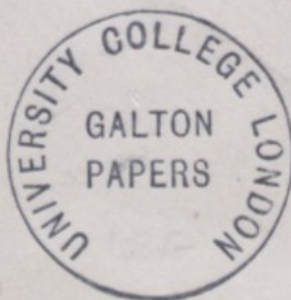
1883

Gatton

Bertie Terrace

Leamington

f. 21✓



42 Rutland Gate SW Sept 25/84

Dearest Emma

The news of the pencil fills my heart with rejoicing. I dreamt an excellent dream last night of which the climax was that it was discovered in the pocket of my dressing ^{gown} & awoke rejoicing to tell Louisa; — & lo! it was a dream.

I must never again wear it together with your door key. The two do not agree in the same pocket — the pencil case is flipped out by its great cackoo half-brother which hangs from the end of the watch chain & is ^{also} stored in the pocket of the waistcoat. ^{They} is the 2^d time it has occurred, ^{I have been} ~~watch~~ watchful since the first time, but now I look on the reconciliation of ~~key~~ & pencil case as impossible, & will hereafter carefully separate them lest they quarrel in the sky.

I went to the British Museum to-day with my earthenware God Bess. Another

but I am happy to learn a smaller
 of the same god, one has just been discovered by
 Flinders Petrie in his excavations
 in the Delta. I have given mine
 to the Brit: Museum. They are
 to give me 3 casts of it; one to
 send down to in my own house as
 heretofore, the others to the
 archaeological collections of Oxford
 & Cambridge respectively. Then
 I produced the Edwin medallion,
 which was discovered in the medal room
 just as Lucy's coins were. They
 say it was by a Scotchman called
Fassie, who made many fair medallion
 portraits about the end of last century
 as a pastime of his own composition.
 There will not be the least difficulty
 in making plaster casts of it. They
 will make a mould & turn out as

many as wanted. I have ordered
a batch & you & Betsy shall
each have one - Alto Mrs
Oldershaw (to whom I have sent
a line) & Emma Whitcomb.

When the medallion comes back
to me, I will take it both to
S. Keating & to Scharf at the
National Portrait Gallery, to see
if they also know anything new
about it. To day has been

a considerable scurry. London
with I am sure, tell you about
herself & Chapman. She discussed

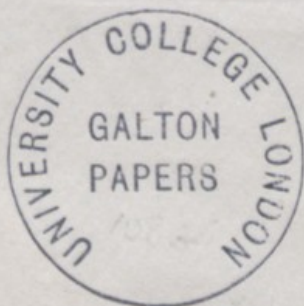
6^{new} Whitstable "Nation" at dinner.
with considerable gusto - but ^(she was told by Chapman to try Oyster)
fear the pain is not sparing her
just at this moment. (indeed it is not).

I cannot sufficiently tell you, & it

needless to me to try to express what
you know how much I feel the
sense of your affectionate kindness
to us both.

It comes so much
as a matter of course & is received
so much at the time in that way,
that it looks as though we were
not really half as conscious of it as
we should be, but we are & I
am sure you know it.

Milly is in a way about her
future, naturally enough. She
has written such nice letters in
answer to those we sent her. Her
clings ^{proposed being sent} to a private tutor
& thence to Oxford, which she wants
differently. Cyril will have been there
& I am very curious to learn the result. I wrote
best love to Helen & the Morrises. I wrote
a paragraph at the Meteor Office today about the little
drawing I had made there in reference to Edwards
foggy voyage. I dare say it may get quoted in some
newspaper in a few days. Ever affecly F. Saltun



f. 24



Very much
at the disposal of
Miss Galtou
5 Burtie Terrace
Leamington

42 R. Gate - Nov 4 -
Private [1886]



It is not private at all. H.

Dearest Emma See the
Telegram just come quite
unexpected but not the
less welcome. I am so glad
Frederick works on so patiently
& quietly, there is less to
bring him to the front than
with many who do less.
He is very pleased but do
not talk about it for a few
days, as the Pres^t of R. Socy
puts private till confirmed
by the Queen (a mere form).
It is given for his Statistical
enquiries & investigations
in Biology. You will be

p. 25v

pleased I know, more
than any one next to our
Selaes. I write in bed
having been sick half
the night, but hope the
attack has passed its
worst, still I cannot write
much. The excursions on
Montagu are delightful
& not too great. I long
to hear we shall soon
see him. Friends are so
heartily & pleased, we are
none of us satisfied with
his Dravery from the first
& very dissatisfied with
Gladstone. I am so thankful
he has this rather than
a Bishopric, but he will
sadly need a wife.

I am grieved your Cookery
has been troubled by Miss
Ellis's illness, & so much de-
valued on you. We shall
anxiously await tidings, but
all goes on including health.

^{Wrote 5th}
Dearest Emma. I finish
the letter as Louisa is arranging
with Cook. We are very sorry
indeed about Miss Ellis & your
troubles in consequence. The

full sized design for the
Litchfield Memorial is ready
to be seen ^{& sent down} & I shall go ^{to the Sculptor} there
this morning. But being rather
busy afterwards ^{at the Hospital Committee} I will not be able
to send an account of it to-day.

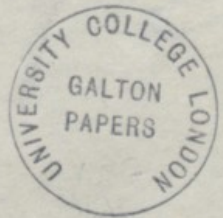
I was so pleased last night-

about the Royal Medal.
 Stokes the President wrote to me
 this morning to say it is for
 my "statistical enquiries into
 biological phenomena". These
 things don't get into the papers,
 certainly not for a couple of weeks, as
 the names ^{of the Royal Medallists} have nominally to be
 submitted to the Queen, because
 she gives the medals. But this is
 a mere form. The medal contains
 some £50 worth of gold. George
 Darwin got one as you will recollect
 2 years ago for his ^(most elaborate) researches into the
 early planetary history. Two ^{Royal} medals are
 given each year. There are also 2 others
 usually given to foreigners, but by no means
 always; besides the great medal of all
 the "Copleys". Tell Weber with thanks that
 the book covers have returned safely.
 Ever affectionately, Francis Galton

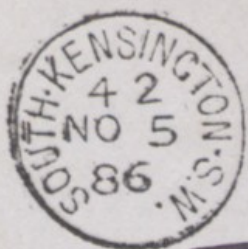
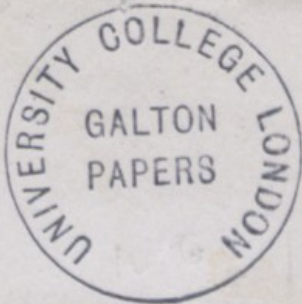
Copy of Telegram

Burdington House (Nov 24th)
5.30

To } Galton 42. Rutland Gate
Royal medal awarded to you
Hooker



f. 28r



about the
medal

Miss Galton

1881-11-7 & 20th

5 Bextee Lodge
Leamington

for Statistical
enquiries into
Biological Phenomena

f. 28v



Francis
about 22dy

M^r Whelan

3.

Bertie Terrace

Leamington

