

76

Huxley Papers 4:100

4 Marlborough Place

NW

Dec 1 1874

Of course I have my growlingest of archangels, why should I expatriate myself to the howling wildnesses around Arthur's Seat otherwise? But beside the mercenary motives, without which as Père de familia I do nothing – I am really glad to be of use to the University which has been civil to me and by no means sorry to have the opportunity of indoctrinating two or three hundred students with orthodox views & methods.

It is very good of you to undertake the work of Examinations which I know you hate as heartily as I do – and exceedingly jolly to think of you taking up your quarters with the “frau-widow” – It's a shame I shan't be at home.

Of course I understood the post card.

Ever yours faithfully

T. H. Huxley

I have been examining a live amphioxus today & not a trace of blood or muscle is to be seen in any transparent part of his body – Moreover when I tried to feed him with indigo he only coughed & spat it out again.

77

Huxley Papers 4:192

Shelford

Jan 19 [1875]

My dear Huxley

To speak frankly I should very much have liked if Martin's name could have been on the title page. It will be so much greater help for him than simply to have his share acknowledged in the preface.¹ What you say on the other hand as to your claims is very pertinent – could not there be some arrangement thus

Martin to have a small permanent share in the copy right and be paid extra for his trouble for this first edition.

1875

Or option offered to Martin whether he would prefer simple ready cash for the 1st Edition – or a share in copy right with less cash.

I don't know whether he can have name title page [*sic*] without sharing copy right. If he can I fancy he would prefer ready cash for 1st Edition without copy right.

Shall I sound him on his wishes?

Ever thine

M. Foster

¹ Title-page of *A Course of practical instruction in elementary biology*, London, Macmillan, 1875. See letters 78 and 81. The book was eventually published as “by T. H. Huxley assisted by H. N. Martin”.

78

Huxley Papers 4:194

Shelford

Jan 27 [1875]

My dear General

I wrote you a hurried scrawl the other day, which I hope you understood – not hearing from you I infer you did. Now on one or two topics.

1. The Book. Martin's share in the book comes to me in this light.

When we first started, you drew up, if my memory serves me right, notes of the practical work to be done, for the guidance of Rutherford, Lankester, & myself. Out of these notes, Rutherford and I, I think I may say, elaborated a system of teaching – this was taught to Martin – and by him developed into the form in which it stands in the book. Looking at the book as a volume of instruction, he has of course, no share in it – it is all your own.

But looking at it as a book of practical dodges, there is I think a good deal that is his in it – so much as might be called a share.

You told Rutherford & myself what we were to shew – we had very largely to find out by experience the best way of showing what was to be seen – receiving of course much help from yourself. Martin has, all the way through the book, improved on the system which he learnt from Rutherford. Is not all that his?

You see I am looking at the book, as a practical book – perhaps too exclusively so that I have been led to reckon Martin's share too highly. What should you say to such such [*sic*] title as this

&c &c

By T. H. H.

Assisted by H. N. Martin.

Now please don't go & write a great long letter about it again – I have sent your letter to Macmillan & will write again when I hear from him. They can't want the title page yet. 2. I am sending you to-morrow to the R.S. a paper on the snail & other molluscan hearts by myself & Dew Smith – for the benefit of that learned body if they see fit.¹

Now I don't know what you & Stokes² arrange about papers. Will it be your duty to read it through before it is read? If so will it make any difference to you if you read it thro' before it is presented. Because if so, it would do me much good if you could – but I don't want you to bother yourself about it – so that if it will give you any trouble to do so – don't.

3. We can't get your remarkable stasis with osmic acid. We get ordinary inflammation after a while in the usual way – but nothing striking or illuminating. When I see you I must talk about it.

4. Ought something to be done about vivisection – or else these beggars will steal a march on us and upset our apple cart altogether?³

Now please don't go & write – but think over the latter point.

I begin my lectures to-morrow – so no more freedom for some time.

We've got a new cook come to night – she has all the external signs of being “a treasure” – which makes one tremble for some imminent catastrophe.

Best wishes to the Missus

Ever Thine

M. Foster

¹ M. Foster and A. G. Dew-Smith, 'On the behaviour of the hearts of mollusks under the influence of electric currents', was read on March 18 and published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, 1874–1875, **23**: 318–343.

² The mathematician and physicist George Gabriel Stokes (1819–1903), Lucasian professor of mathematics at Cambridge, and a secretary (physical sciences) of the Royal Society.

³ Frances Power Cobbe (1822–1904) and the Victoria Street Society for the Protection of Animals against Vivisection was petitioning for, and had begun drafting, a bill to ban vivisection.

79

Huxley Papers 4:198

Shelford

Jan 29 [1875]

My dear General

Marshall¹ – the man who is going out to Naples to Dohrn, has just come to me and asked me if I thought you would let him have a few minutes talk with you before he goes. Now, don't let him bother you – (Carpenter has told me that you have had

1875

earache – and I feel very guilty of having written a lot of letters bothering you –) May I fix it in this way –

If you can see him on Monday – will you drop me a post card with the hours on it, at which he shall come to you at S.K. If I do not hear from you, I shall tell him that you are very much engaged and can't see him.

This I hope will give you least trouble – please be sure you don't take any.

Ever yours

M. F.

¹ Arthur Milnes Marshall (1852–1893), a student from St John's College, Cambridge.

80

Huxley Papers 4:200

Shelford

Jan 31 [1875]

My dear Huxley

I have received the enclosed with Macmillan – have examined Martin on the matter – & have cogitated over it – and have come to the conclusion that to ask you, if you see no objection to it, to let “assisted by Martin” to stand on the title page – because then Martin's help will be made known to those (such as the University authorities) who are not likely to read the preface or the book. If you see any objection to this – then the matter is closed, and you will say what you think right in the preface – and your name will stand alone on the title page.

2. I have sent the paper I spoke of to you at the R.S. to do whatever seems good to you.¹

[3.] Not having heard from you, I have written to Marshall to tell him you can't see him on Monday.

4. I hope you are not the worse for Friday's lecture² – why don't you try & undertake a few more things.

5. I must come & see you soon for I am sick of writing.

Ever thine

M. Foster

¹ See letter 78, note 1.

² On the recent work of the “Challenger” expedition, and its bearing on geological problems' read at the Royal Institution on 29 January 1875, *Notices of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, with Abstracts of the Discourses delivered at the evening meetings, 1875*, vii: 354–357; *Scientific memoirs*, vol. 4, pp. 61–65.

Huxley Papers 4:102

Feb 1 1875

My dear Foster

I am disgusted that being very tired on Saturday morning & very busy on Saturday afternoon, I utterly forgot to answer your note – But you should always send young fellows who want to learn to me without hesitating. They are sure of civil treatment whatever may happen to their elders when I am busy.¹

I have no objection to the course you propose about Martin's name so by all means let it stand so. The only difficulty now in my mind arises out of your last letter, the logical outcome of which would be such a title page as the subjoined:-

A Course of Practical Instruction

in

Elementary Biology

by

Dr Foster FRS & Prof. Rutherford

Assisted by

Dr Martin

with

hints & suggestions

by

T. H. Huxley

(In smallest pica obtainable & printed in faint ink)

If there is the faintest approximation to an idea that this represents the true state of the case in your mind, all I ever say is, I am ready & willing to clear out of the whole affair – It would perhaps have been better if I had never entered into it but you must recollect that it was your proposition to me that Martin should “help me” (these were the words) to get the thing out. So in the innocency of mine heart have I done this.

I think since such title as “Course of Practical Instruction in Elementary Biology” would be good but perhaps you & Martin may explicate something better.

I am going to undertake a few more things only don't hurry me.

Come up as soon as you will & can. We can give you a bed now.

Ever yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

¹ See letter 79.

82

Huxley Papers 4:104

Jermyn St
April 10 1875

My dear Foster

The official letter tells me that there will be about 6000 Animal Physiology candidates this year & desires me to nominate only six assistant examiners. So I have sent in the names of Allchin, Ferrier, Martin, Parker, Pritchard and Rutherford.

I thought this was the right thing to do, though I was unwilling to sacrifice little Parker.

Perhaps some fragments may be found for him. I should think he could do the Biology.

The Examination Papers will be ready about the 14th of May – so you will have to arrange accordingly – Cambridge or no Cambridge.

Yours ever very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

83

Huxley Papers 4:106

4 Marlborough Place
NW
April 16 1875

My dear Foster

Donnelly wants very much to have a course on Physiology for teachers this year – about 3 weeks – Will you undertake it after the examination?

There is the Lion in the path of “vivisection”. It would be very imprudent just now to have anything at South Kensington that could be laid hold of by Hutton¹ & the “foolish fat scullion”² – And yet it is desirable that the course should be given.

Can't you contrive something which without being attackable will suffice?

Let me know as soon as you can as I promised to write to you ten days ago & it has been put out of my head.

1875

You will have seen the R.S. list. I am exceedingly annoyed that Rutherford³ is not in it. Sanderson⁴ & I did our best but there was a shuffle about the last three & he dropped out.

I am afraid it will annoy him.

Ever yours

T. H. H.

Did you let Martin know about the papers being ready on the 14th May?

¹ Richard Holt Hutton (1826–1897), active in the antivivisection movement. See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 29, pp. 76–78.

² Reference to Frances Power Cobbe, see letter 78, note 3.

³ Rutherford was elected a fellow in 1876.

⁴ John Scott Burdon Sanderson (1828–1905) was then Jodrell Professor of Physiology, University College London, and vice-president of the Royal Society.

84

Huxley Papers 4:108

4 Marlborough Place

NW

April 22 1875

My dear Foster

What do you say to coming up on Thursday 29? – Dining with me at R.S. Club Willis Rooms 6.30 – doing your duty by the society & sleeping here afterwards?

Ever Yours

T. H. H.

Read Pflüger Beiträge zur Lehre von der Respiration.¹ Sent to Martin yesterday – Good Boy!!

¹ Eduard Friedrich Wilhelm Pflüger (1829–1910), German physiologist. The paper was published in *Archiv Physiol.*, 1875, **10**: 251–367, 641–644.

85

Huxley Papers 4:135

31 Royal Terrace
Edinburgh
May 11 1875

My dear Foster

If you think Parker j is up to the advanced papers – let him have them. I suspect he is but am not quite sure otherwise [illegible] I was thinking of getting Parker appointed as Asst. Ex. and it might be as well to experiment on him & see how he is up to the work this year.

Getting on swimmingly here. I suppose I shall have over 300 in my class.¹

Ever Yours kindly
T. H. Huxley

¹ 353 students attended Huxley's summer course of lectures on natural history at Edinburgh, see letter 75.

86

ALS H294

Craigside
Morpeth
August 11 1875

My dear Foster

We are staying here with Sir W. Armstrong – the whole brood – Miss Matthaei¹ and the majority of the chickens being camped at a farm house belonging to our host about three miles off. It is wetter than it need be, otherwise we are very jolly.

I finished off my work in Edinburgh on the 23rd and positively polished off the Animal Kingdom in 54 lectures – French without a master in twelve lessons is nothing to this feat. The men worked very well on the whole – and sent in some creditable examination papers. I stayed a few days to finish up the abstracts of my lectures for the Medical Times² – then picked up the two elder girls who were at Barmoor & brought them on here to join the wife & the rest.

How is it that Dohrn has been & gone? I have been meditating a letter to him for an age. He wanted to see me and I did not know how to manage to bring about a meeting.

Edinburgh is greatly exercised in its mind about the vivisection business – & “Vagus” “swells wisely” whenever the subject is mentioned. I think there is an inclination to regard those who are ready to consent to legislation of any kind as traitors or, at any rate, trimmers – It sickens me to reflect on the quantity of time & worry I shall have to give to that subject when I get back.

I see that Rutherford has been blowing the trumpet at the Medical Association.³ He has about as much tact as a fly blown bull.

I have just had a long letter from Wyville Thomson – The “Challenger” inclines to think that Bathybius is a mineral precipitate!⁴ in which case some enemy will probably say that it is a product of my precipitation. So mind, I was the first to make that “goak” – Old Ehrenberg⁵ suggested something of the kind to me but I have not his letter here. I shall eat my leek handsomely, if any eating has to be done. They have found pseudopodia in Globigerina.

With all good wishes from ours to yours.

Ever yours faithfully

T. H. Huxley

¹The Huxleys’ German governess.

²His ‘Notes on the invertebrata’ had been appearing serially in the *Medical Times and Gazette* since May 8.

³At the meeting of the British Medical Association, in Edinburgh, ‘Address in physiology’, *British Medical Journal*, 1875, ii: 198–200.

⁴Letter from Charles Wyville Thomson of 9 June 1875 (Huxley Papers 27:312). See following letter. For Huxley and *Bathybius*, see Philip F. Rehbock, ‘Huxley, Haeckel, and the oceanographers: the case of *Bathybius haeckelii*’, *Isis*, 1975, 66: 504–533.

⁵Christian Gottfried Ehrenberg (1795–1876), German zoologist, comparative anatomist, geologist, and microscopist.

87

Huxley Papers 4:212

Shelford

Sep 14 [1875]¹

Gracious Sir

Your noble letter reached me at Mürren and my heart rejoiced at the good news of yourself.

In spite of your reprimand to me, I think I was right in bolting. I have enjoyed the holiday very much & feel “quite another man”. Mürren was very delightful – in fact it was quite divine – for we had there the Archbishop of Canterbury² – the great Farrar³ – two or three distinguished nonconformist ministers – besides a whole host of “inferior clergy.” To counterbalance this we had Mr & Mrs Bancroft⁴ – & a set of ungodly people who flirted all day & danced & charaded all the evening. Just fancy a P & O quarter deck,

all going on in face of the Silberhorn & Mondschein. Sterchi thought people ought to pay for this – & on examination I found our bill was running up like a Spitz or a Horu.⁵ So we gathered up our traps & fled to Bel Alp where we remained till our return last Saturday – & a very jolly time we had – no divines, no dancing – only gletchers & the hills – and atrocious wine which upset me daily.

Martin I hear has been back to Cambridge, but is off again now. I hope the book is off too.

Balfour has got his paper nearly ready – I think you will like it. I suppose I send it up to W. W.⁶ – & he will put it in the ordinary train.

By the bye do you as Sec. object to our reprinting the Heart paper. We want to bring out the 2nd No. of the Studies. If you don't say no – I shall set upon it soon.⁷

I hope you will let me know when you come back. I must run up & have a jaw.

By the bye, you did that Bathybius business with the most beautiful grace – I wish you would sell me a little morsel of that trick.⁸

Our kind regards to the Missus & the girls – Mrs Foster is a picture – about as brown as one of the boxes in the Cock or Cheshire Cheese – & so full of energy that she goes tramping up & down our spur of the Gog Magog with a view to let off steam on fear of — I encourage this.

Vale

Ever thine

M. F.

I gather from Nature that Dohrn's business is settled all right with the Brit. Ass.

¹ This letter is catalogued in Dawson as 14 September [1879] and is quoted in *Life and letters* as of that date (vol 2, p. 5). However from the content of the letter a date of 1875 seems more likely.

² Archibald Campbell Tait (1811–1882).

³ Frederick William Farrar (1831–1903), then Headmaster of Marlborough College. He later became dean of Canterbury.

⁴ The actor Squire Bancroft (1841–1926) and his wife Marie Effie Bancroft (1839–1921), actress and theatre manager, were on holiday in Mürren that summer. Mr. and Mrs. Bancroft, *Mr & Mrs Bancroft on and off the stage*, 2 vols, London, Richard Bentley & Son, 1888, vol. 2, pp. 37–38.

⁵ Horu is Matterhorn in local dialect.

⁶ Walter White (1811–1893), assistant secretary of the Royal Society. This presumably refers to Francis M. Balfour, 'On the development of the spinal nerves in elasmobranch fishes', *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, 1876, **166**: 175–195, which was received on 5 October 1875.

⁷ M. Foster and A. G. Dew-Smith, 'On the behaviour of the hearts of mollusks under the influence of electric currents', *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London*, 1874–1875, **23**: 318–343, was reprinted in *Studies from the physiological laboratory in the University of Cambridge*, Cambridge, University Press, 1876, vol. 2, pp. 73–106.

⁸ T. H. Huxley, 'Notes from the "Challenger"', *Nature*, Aug. 19 1875, **12**: 315–316. In the article Huxley quotes Wyville Thomson's letter at length and states, "Since I am mainly responsible for the mistake, if it be one, of introducing this singular substance into the list of living things, I think I shall err on the right side in attaching even greater weight than he does to the view which he suggests."

88

Huxley Papers 4:109

4 Marlborough Place
London NW
Oct 2 1875

My dear Foster

I came back on Thursday morning, having changed my plans and travelled through from Elgin. But it was too late to make any appointment with you yesterday and moreover I had such a lot of things to do that I might not have kept it!

I think you had better settle about Balfour's paper yourself as it might be a little awkward for me to mix up my critical & secretarial functions.

Keep all the money you have got. O my son. – (the wisdom of experience speaks) and get all that you can get.

The best image of my noble phiz is I think the portrait in *Nature*¹ – So thinks wife who does not know of any cabinet size except a melancholy wretch who was done twenty years ago.

Saw Sharpey yesterday. He is very well but very blind.

Shall not be sorry to see you in the flesh any time.

Our best remembrances to Mrs Foster.

Ever yours very faithfully

T. H. Huxley

P.S. Will you tell me why people of whom I have never heard write from remote parts to tell me that they masturbate?

¹ Huxley's portrait appeared in *Nature* to accompany his biographical entry by Ernst Haeckel in the 'Scientific Worthies' series, *Nature*, 1874, **9**: 257–258.

89

Huxley Papers 4:204

Shelford

Nov 17 [1875]

Reverend Sir

You know I am the man for forlorn hopes – & therefore of course I will second Ray – I suppose I must put my name down somewhere which I will do – the next time I am up.¹

Haddon has I believe sent in a formal appeal.²

You say nothing about the missus – so I suppose she is better.

Ever thine

M. Foster

¹ E. Ray Lankester's election as FRS (1875).

² Probably Alfred Cort Haddon (1855–1940), a student of Balfour and Foster. See *Oxford DNB*, vol. 24, pp. 411–413.

90

Huxley Papers 4:111

Dec 4th 1875

My dear Foster

Don't say I don't keep my word. The Ms. accompanies this. Let the printers send me two proofs – I like to keep one.

The plates are all in hand & have been since Thursday.

I have had a long talk with Balfour this morning & saw some of his preparations. I have advised him to have one or two of them carefully drawn, as his figures don't do the cardinal ones justice.

Also I have written to Hooker to ask for his paper to be read on the 16th.

Now don't keep me ten days waiting for proofs as I shall be up to my eyes in other things after the 11th when that darned Commission meets again.¹

We are up to our necks in snow & over them in fog.

Ever yours

T. H. H.

¹ Probably the Commission on Vivisection, on which Huxley sat.

91

Huxley Papers 4:206

Shelford

Dec 9 [1875]

Reverend Sir

A Miss Wilcox, from U. S. A. who has been attending Balfour & myself during this term, is very anxious to hear some of your lectures. Have you any objection to her doing so – during a day or two she stays in London – if you object I have already made her understand that possibly you may not like it.

If you don't mind her attending, send me a post card.

If you let her come she will probably want to thank you at the close of one of the lectures for I have warned her not to make any attacks on you at any other time – fearing God being a U. S. A. she probably would desire to do so.

My soul yearneth to see you – & I shall make an attempt next week all being well.

Ever thine

M. Foster

92

Huxley Papers 4:136

Dec 13 1875

My dear Foster

There is a Council meeting of the Royal Society on Monday and if there is much to be done I do not know when I shall be able to get away. Otherwise I would willingly come [opick a ni] with you at the Savile.

Don't blaspheme my proofs which were beautiful 25 copies if you please. Also a servant if possible paralytic in the lower limbs so that she may stay.

If you talk bosh about bothering us we will send you a polite note assuring Dr & Mrs Foster that nothing can afford Mr & Mrs Huxley greater pleasure &c &c.

I am up to my eyes in work & am trying to save all the time I can – so don't think I am churlish about the Council.

1876

Hertwig's paper is looked at – was sent to me long ago.¹ These fellows all want mix Cretae & opio to stop their glossorrhoea.² Look at Goethe!

McKendrick is the man have told him I will help him if I can.³
Ever yours
T. H. H.

¹ Wilhelm August Oscar Hertwig (1849–1922), German zoologist.

² Mixture of chalk and opium to stop the verbal diarrhoea.

³ John Gray McKendrick (1841–1926), professor of physiology at Glasgow University 1876–1906.

93

Huxley Papers 4:113

April 20 1876

My dear Foster

Every evening next week I have an engagement of some sort or another. But I will be here any hour you like on Wednesday or if you will come up to the Bakerian on Thursday. I think it is a Royal Society Club night & you might dine with me there. I shall not be here after 2 p.m. on Thursday – & possibly not here at all on Saturday 29th. Monday 1st I am off to the North and the Lord knows when I shall see you again as nothing intervening I mean to go to Yankeedom after Edinburgh.¹

Ever Yours faithfully
T. H. Huxley

¹ As in 1875 Huxley delivered his course of lectures in Edinburgh; this was followed by a visit to the USA, July to September 1876.

94

Huxley Papers 4:115

4 Marlborough Place
April 30 1876

My dear Foster

Allchin, Ferrier, Langley, Martin, Parker (2) & Pritchard have been approved of by "My Lords".¹

In haste

Ever yours

T. H. H.

¹ As assistant examiners. For Langley, see note to following letter.

95

Huxley Papers 4:118

4 Marlborough Place
N.W.
May 21 1876

My dear Foster

The council appointed to draw up rules & regulations for the administration of the Jodrell Fund has not reported yet otherwise Mr Langley seems just such a man as we want for Jodrellization.¹

I have placed it in the hands of the President so that it may be borne in mind.

I have run up for the Council but go back to my Arctic solitude tonight. Class 308 which is better than I expected.

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley

¹ In 1874 T. J. Phillips Jodrell had placed a sum of £6,000 at the disposal of the Royal Society for the encouragement of scientific research in the form of grants to investigators. John Newport Langley (1852–1925), a pupil of Foster, eventually succeeded him as professor of physiology at Cambridge.

Huxley Papers 4:120

4 Melville St Edinburgh
May 25 1876

My dear Foster

I did not know that there was anything particular for me to notice in the debate in the House of Lords till yesterday. Then I saw that that pietistic old malefactor, Shaftesbury had been raging and I wrote a little note to the Times – the which if they put it in will not be pleasant to his Evangelical soul.¹

If Cardwell's² speech is judged rightly refuted I am disgusted with him. He ought to have pointed out forcibly that the proposed act not only goes beyond the recommendations of the Report but adopts what the majority of us discarded – and left Hutton to make his own report about.

It appears to me that this is the strong point on which to make any appeal to the Government – and indeed the only one which it will be worth while or wise to lay much stress upon. Regulations about inspection &c. are all very fine on paper; but they are pretty certain to waste months in practice. I doubt whether it is worth while to waste strength on amendments in this direction – it is in the prohibition to touch dogs & cats that the Government is vulnerable inasmuch as here they are in distinct opposition to the Commission.

If you are going to have a public deputation I should say go to Dizzy himself³ – you will get no good out of Carnarvon (Auberon Herbert's brother) and Duke of Richmond has nothing to do with it. In the Lords why not go to the Duke of Somerset. He is the only man who talked sense the other night and he is a vigorous old boy. Cannot anybody get at Lord Derby?⁴ He is not much given to sentiment and might if he liked exercise an influence in the Cabinet.

Lubbock & Playfair and I should think G. S Lefevre⁵ will begin to help in the Commons. But you should send a deputation to the Home Secretary – He will have charge of the bill in the House & is open to reason.

It is not Hutton who has beaten me, but Klein. He has done more for our enemies than

they could have done by their joint efforts, without him, by his wantonly & mischievously brutal talk.⁶

Ever Yours

T. H. Huxley.

¹ This refers to the Vivisection Bill of 1876. Shaftesbury had stated that Huxley's preface to *Lessons in elementary physiology* insisted that experiments in the book be repeated in the classroom. Huxley's letter to *The Times* gives "the most emphatic and unqualified contradiction to this assertion". 'Professor Huxley on Lord Shaftesbury', *The Times*, May 26, 1876, p. 10, issue 28639, col B.

² Edward Cardwell, first Viscount Cardwell (1813–1886). See Richard D French, *Antivivisection and medical science in Victorian society*, Princeton, NJ, Princeton University Press, 1975.

³ Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881), prime minister until 1880.

⁴ Sixteenth Earl of Derby (1841–1908), financial secretary to the War Office (1874–1878).

⁵ George John Shaw-Lefevre (1831–1928), MP for Reading 1863–1885, created Baron Eversley in 1906.

⁶ The bacteriologist Edward Emanuel Klein. On Klein's ineptitude, see Desmond, *Huxley*, p. 462. See also letter 46.

97

Huxley Papers 4:123

4 Melville St

May 29 1876

My dear Foster

Many thanks for your letter & telegram. It is an even chance yet that there will be no Act passed this session – which is rather a pity as I do not think things will mend by keeping the agitation alive.

You will have seen my skirmish with Shaftesbury in the Times. He has behaved better than could have been expected and I have written him a private note, which may I hope do some good.

I am very glad to hear what you tell me about Cardwell for I was resolutely disgusted at his having as I thought left us undefended.

I have no copy of the bill here & can hardly judge of the effect of your amendments. I wish you would send me a copy with the amendments noted. The postponement until after Whitsuntide will give time to do something.

What had I to do with your paper being ready – marry come up! The Department people knew perfectly well that they had to do with you and sent me no notice. They have been trying to shove the consequences of their own stupidity on my shoulders.

1876

I am very glad the dinner went off well & I can picture to myself the flow of eloquence of the chairman.

I suppose you are back at Shelford & write there. May I mention that many persons consider dates & addresses useful when they write letters!

You will be in an awful state of worry – Ask Mrs Foster with my best regards to take care of you & prevent you from smoking too much for my sake.

Ever Yours
T. H. Huxley

98

Huxley Papers 4:125

4 Melville St. Edinburgh
June 13 1876

My dear Foster

I am off to London tomorrow night & shall be at the Royal Society on Thursday – I remain in London till Sunday evening and will meet you anywhere and any when you like if you can't come to my house. Since people (good quakers) are to dine with us on Friday can't you come? Sunday morning I have a man coming to me on business – but afternoon free – Saturday as I know, I am free altogether.

I have just seen Holt's Bill – The House of Commons won't pass it.¹ But the fact that a number of people will support Holt if the cat & dog clause is left out – will necessarily weigh a great deal with the Home Secretary.

I think on the whole it is an even chance if the Bill comes before the House of Commons at all this session. Dizzy has got everything into such a mess.

But I am not sure that we shall be any the better for the sore being kept open.

Heaven knows when I shall see you again if you don't turn up in London this week. I would offer you your old room but I am afraid we shall have a visitor.

I wish you would write and ask my wife whether she can put you up or not. I am not sure.

Ever Yours
T. H. Huxley

¹In May 1876, James Maden Holt MP had introduced a 'Bill to make more effectual provision for the prevention of cruelty to animals', *19th Century House of Commons Sessional Papers*, No. 168, vol. I, p. 523.

99

Huxley Papers 4:127

June 25 1876

My dear Foster

These awful plates – you will curse them or me by your Gods.

But they really won't do – just look at them after waiting so long we must produce something decent and I've nothing for it but to make the drawings all over again when I come back from abroad and stand over somebody's shoulder while they are being done.

I have not telegraphed to [Collings] as he asks but leave it to you to tell him what to do.

I do not see that affairs are much marked by the alterations of the Bill in the Lords.

Ever yours

T. H. Huxley

100

Huxley Papers 4:129

4 Melville St, Edin.

June 29 1876

My dear Foster

I do not see what else you could have done than was done about the plates with the flow of curses loud & deep before you. So I give you my blessing & absolution.

I am very glad to hear your report of Harry.¹ Thanks for Mrs Foster's & your kind care of him. I wish you would look at him with a medical eye & tell me what I ought to do with him. I think he has a good constitution but an excitable brain. As a baby of three or four he had an imagination which knew no bounds between fiction & fact and by injudicious treatment he might have been converted into a liar of the first magnitude – He is wonderfully affectionate & sensitive and has all the faculties which lead people to love & spoil a boy – Women will play the devil with him & he with them as he gets older if he doesn't alter.

The remedy for all this would be hard occupation but as soon as we set him to that his brain becomes excited & he begins gnashing his teeth at night and having fearful visions. Ought I to send him to school in the country?