

Penola.
5.9.65.

W.H. Archer Esq.,

My dear Sir,

Mr. Dwight writes me word that you approved of a microscope of French construction which you consider worth £20. I ordered it from him at £12 at yr recommendation. If I have done wrong there is time for you to countermand the order as I can ill afford even such a small sum, my present means meaning mean poverty and Penola mission — penury. I manage to skim a little extra sustenance from literary and scientific pursuits. Otherwise I could not think of microscopes unless they would magnify my income. But it is the old story. The rule is that all priests say they are poor, the exception being in my case that it is true. Never mind. I would not give a fig for the excitement of my work if I were not always rushed for time and struggling. Pooh! Literary and scientific work when one is rich and has plenty of time must be dreadfully tame. Please let me know what the microscope contains for I can make nothing of H.T.D'sⁱ diagnosis. He says there is a **spot glass**. What in the name of optics does that mean? A spotted lens?

By the way you never answered my query about the MS of my contribution to your Reviewⁱⁱ - *fata morgana*ⁱⁱⁱ. I don't care a straw about it if destroyed but if it be in other hands who would filch my brains then I shd object. Please let me know did you post it and is it lost? Would you also kindly inform Dwight where he cd purchase for me so as to be able to send with the microscope about six dozen glass slides for mounting objects upon? Give him the order and tell him to send to me one as I have not been able to write to him this post.

I want to know also could you get for me from the N.S.W. Govt. any parliamentary or government papers having reference to the geology of the colony. **This is very important** so please do attend to it, because I assure you I am now stuck in my Physical Geography for want of some information about Sydney. Also Clarke's^{iv} book on the Southern Gold Fields. The latter you can get perhaps from Dwight for me on my a/c and send per post or get it anywhere —steal it —and tell me the cost to soul and body and I will remit in both senses.

Also yr statistics for last year or rather 1862, for 61 is the last I have. Now you will pardon me being so importunate, but who have I to look but you? And I ask you to do me these favours out of compunction for having abused you to Verdon^v in a letter last week. What do you think for? Come now say are you guilty or not guilty? Not guilty I say for I did it for fun and you are not often guilty of **that**.

And now let me enquire for you and yrs. How are the infant Archers. Do they grow up worthy of yr wishes and solicitude and my prayers and do they show the most evident signs of the effects of both. Well surely I do my part. And will you remember me most kindly to Mrs. Archer and say that I hope to see you all in summer and by the blessing of providence, I intend that you shall see me a bishop then or excommunicated. Do or die.^{vi}

Vy try yrs

J.E. Tenison Woods.

I will be content with a very short note in reply if you will answer all my queries.

ⁱ Henry Tolman Dwight (1823?-1871) was the leader of the book trade in Melbourne and an early and successful publisher of Australian works. His bookshop at 234 Bourke Street opened in 1854 and became a meeting place for the literary dilettanti of his period. His property was bequeathed to the University of Melbourne, and prizes were established for the encouragement of learning in ancient history, constitutional and legal history and natural philosophy, (*Age Melbourne*, 10th February, 1945 and *A.D.B.*, Vol. 4, pp. 121-122).

ⁱⁱ . T.F. Ferguson's *Bibliography of Australia 1851-1900* (Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1963, pp. 103-105) lists the publications of William Henry Archer. Apart from *Catholic Education and Civilisation Past and Present 1856* (four editions), *Abstracts of English and Colonial Patent Specifications relating to the Preservation of Food etc.* 1870, and a Supplement to it 1870, and *The Position of Catholics to Public Education 1884*, Archer's other works deal with Statistical Notes on the Progress of Victoria. Hence what Archer's Review is and Woods possible contribution to it I have been unable to ascertain.

James Smith in a letter (16/1/66) to Archer introducing *Mr. Walstab* who wishes to commence "a first class monthly magazine" mentions how anxious Archer is to see "such a publication established and successful." (W.H. Archer Collection, University of Melbourne Archives).

James Smith (1820-1910) an experienced and able journalist migrated to Victoria in 1854. He joined the staff of the Argus in 1856 and contributed leading articles, literary reviews and dramatic criticisms. For a time he edited the Australasian but from 1863-68 he was Parliamentary Librarian. The first to suggest the foundation of a National Gallery he exerted a great influence on art as critic and as trustee of the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery. He wrote articles for most of the important Melbourne literary journals, was a much sought public lecturer and worked for the intellectual and cultural elevation of the colony. (A.D.B., Vol. 6, pp. 145-146)

George Arthur Walstab (1834-1909) writer & journalist migrated to Victoria 1852. After war service in India he returned to Melbourne in 1865 where he wrote for Age and Herald and edited the Australia Journal. In 1866 he edited the short-lived Australasian Monthly Review. He was a close friend of Marcus Clarke (A.D.B. Vol. 6, 349)

ⁱⁱⁱ a mirage, an illusion.

^{iv} William B. Clarke (1798-1878) Geologist and Anglican clergyman, graduated from Cambridge as Master of Arts and worked under Rev. Adam Sedgwick before coming to Australia in 1838. He was Headmaster of Kings College and later rector at St. Thomas, North Sydney. He claimed to be the scientific discoverer of gold and though this was disputed the Government gave him £3000. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London in 1876 and the following year was awarded the Murchison Medal of the Geological Society. He publicised science by his many contributions to the Sydney press and founded the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1867, holding the position of its vice-president until 1876. One of his greatest contributions to Australian Geology was his work on the age of the coal deposits of New South Wales (Note 2, 28/11/63) The Clarke Medal struck as Australia's first scientific award in 1878 honours his work. (*A.D.B.* Vol. 3, pp. 420-22). Woods in 1875 names a Tasmanian marine shell *Siphonalla clarkei* after "my dear friend and fellow labourer, the Rev. W.B. Clarke, F.G.S. etc. so long and eminently connected with the history of Australian Geology". "Description of New Tasmanian Shells" *Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas.* 1875, p. 138.

^v Sir George Frederick Verdon (1834-1896) politician and banker arrived in Melbourne 1851. He was Treasurer in 1860 and again in 1863 and Victoria's first Agent-General in London in 1868. Interested in art, literature and science, an active member of the Royal Society of Victoria, he supported the Sciences in Parliament and became a trustee of the Public Library, Museum and National Gallery. (*A.D.B.* Vol. 6, pp. 330-332).

^{vi} Bishop Patrick Bonaventure Geoghan, O.S.F. second Bishop of Adelaide died in May, 1864, and his successor Lawrence Bonaventure Sheil, O.S.F. was not consecrated Bishop until August, 1866. In the intervening time speculation as to who would be the new Bishop of Adelaide would have been rife especially in clerical circles. A letter from Fr. Daniel Fitzgibbon, an associate of Fr. Woods on the South Australian mission, to the congregation of Propaganda Rome 10/2/64 describes Woods as "a studious man, but neglectful of his duties for profane studies, ambitious for a bishopric, a man who courts the rich and is arrogant towards the poor, neglects theology and spiritual exercises, light-headed and lacking priestly gravity". Fr. J.A. Keaney, "New Tribute to Pioneer Founder" *Advocate*, Melbourne, 10th April, 1980. *The Border Watch* (16/2/67) report seems to contradict this judgement of Fr. Fitzgibbon. "On Sunday last Father Woods preached his farewell sermon at St. Joseph's. The church was crowded and the congregation were evidently much affected at parting with a pastor who had so endeared himself to them". In the same issue a presentation from the parishioner to Father Woods is noted and also a presentation of one hundred guineas in a beautiful blue and gold silk purse from the residents of the South East for the purpose of purchasing scientific books or instruments is reported.