

Penola.

28.11.63

W.H. Archer, Esq.,

My dear Sir,

If you write me any more of those stiff epistles, smattering of quakerism, heresy and what not I shall have you prayed for publicly in the church. You ought to have enough of calculations and statistics all day in your office without turning to figures of speech and whether you meant it to be funny or not the effect of connecting you with a broad brim (not grim mind) — drab smallsⁱ and a twirling of thumbs was irresistible. And don't think even in such guise to escape my just wrath. Even as a "man of peace" you shall kiss the rod, if not I'll lay it on by Gemini. I don't say you're worse than McCoyⁱⁱ — I value your industry even now too highly — and far be it therefore from me to say you're as bad as McGillvrayⁱⁱⁱ (may they eat dirt) but you're heading in dangerous paths and but that you are not receiving a salary for scientific purposes I should give you up for lost. When am I to hear about the Bryozoa^{iv} — that is the question — and my grievance. I proposed to make up a paper with you and publish in our joint names — on the subject of the new species. I have a good many and I wrote to Busk^v and McGillvray — Busk broke his arm; McGillvray his pledge and when with all these misfortunes: I hear nothing from you and I know you have treasures in your cabinet born to blush unseen — well I need patience — I get called a hermit for my pains. I would forgive you if it were not that I have a dim recollection of strange forms of Bryozoa flitting through my memory and the thought that some of them may be new genera drives me to desperation. Now believe me. I admit that you have a great deal to do — and that you are bored to death with Boards, mais d'abord^{vi} let me remind you that no man ever became eminent in science unless per ardua et aspera^{vii} and if you think I have nothing else to do, I wish as a punishment that you were my horse for a month. However, though I don't at all admit that I have no sympathy or consideration for my fellow labourers, yet bearing in mind the valuable government statistics from New South Wales, I beg to withdraw my remark about diletantism.

Now for news. I suppose you saw that the Rev. J.E. Woods read a paper on the Rivers of Interior Australia^{viii} at the British Association Newcastle Upon Tyne. Probably it may not be necessary to tell you that there were geographical reasons to prevent my reading it in person, so Sir R. Murchison^{ix} read it for me. You will see it in the Argus shortly. After that I intend to favour the public with some further views in the matter of the new river N.W. of Lake Gairdner^x and then I should like to begin my Physical Geography.^{xi} The latter work will be a great one that is as far as I can make it. The ideas I have in connection with it are growing larger and larger and I never felt so eager to set about anything. It will be a real labour of love, far more so than anything I have written hitherto so I hope it will be appreciated by the public. In any case I may safely say that the pleasure of writing it will pay me for all. I should like first to publish a little paper on the Bryozoa for the R.S. Verbum sap.^{xii} By the way I am no longer F.R.S.V.^{xiii} for I have not paid my subscrip. this year. Having paid for three years and got nothing I must really decline until they publish what I send them.^{xiv} If they like to elect me an Honorary (considering how far I am away) well and good. If not I must make my bow. Joking apart, I am really deeply indebted to your kindness in sending the papers. Accept my best thanks. Kindest regards to Mrs. Archer, Gracey^{xv} and friends and believe me, etc.

Julian E.T. Woods

P.S. I have given a nice little lecture on the Antiquity of Man^{xvi} and propose giving it to Dwight^{xvii} for publication. I fancy it is a pretty good view of the other side of the question^{xviii} and may do much good.

ⁱ Smalls — possibly small clothes which were knee breeches, especially close fitting ones. Thus "drab smalls" with "broad brim" and the earlier mention of Quakerism could be a reference to the dress of the Quakers. (World Book Dictionary, 1973 p. 1952 and New Webster Dictionary, 1968 p. 792).

ⁱⁱ Sir Frederick McCoy (1817-1899), Geologist, first Professor of Natural Science at the University of Melbourne, became Director of the Museum of Natural and Applied Science. President of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1864, the Murchison medalist (1879) in the Geological Society of London and a member and fellow of many learned overseas societies, he was a prolific contributor to scientific literature. A controversial figure, he built up an outstanding natural history and geological collection, but his disregard of financial procedures exasperated both governments and people who collected specimens for him. He was a vocal opponent of Darwinism and for years debated with the Rev. W.B. Clarke on the age of the coal deposits of New South Wales. Woods made contact with McCoy through Ferdinand von Mueller, the brother-in-law of Dr. Wehl of Mt. Gambier and in later years collected specimens for him (Letters National Museum, Victoria, A.D.B., Vol. 5, pp. 134-136). Woods dedicated *Fish and Fisheries of N.S.W.* (1882) "to Frederick McCoy, F.R.S., F.G.S., Murchisonian and Clarkean Medalist, Professor of Natural History at Melbourne University, etc., etc. This work is inscribed as an acknowledgement of his early labours on behalf of PALAEOLOGICAL SCIENCE in Europe and his Great Services to Australian Natural Science during the last eighteen years by his obliged friend THE AUTHOR."

ⁱⁱⁱ Paul Howard McGillvray (1834-1895), scientist and medical practitioner arrived in Melbourne in 1855. He combined an active interest in natural science with his work as doctor and his contribution to the study of Polyzoa (Bryozoa) — the sea mosses — was outstanding. His work on the Polyzoa of Victoria is still standard. (A.D.B. Vol. 5, pp. 155-156).

^{iv} The Bryozoa (Polyzoa) are usually small (from 5mm to 15cm) and are aquatic colonial organisms ranging in time from Ordovician (geological period which commenced five hundred million years ago and lasted for sixty million years) to Recent. They are of no geological importance but occasionally they occur in significant volume as reef-building organisms (Whitten, D. & Brooks, J. *A Dictionary of Geology*, Ringwood, Penguin, 1975, p.357.)

"Mr. W.H. Archer read a paper on some novel microscopic apparatus which he had lately become possessed of as well as some other which had been made to his order... Mr. Archer next proceeded to exhibit his improvement as connected with the microscopic examination of some new Polyzoa ... " *Argus* 22/9/63 "Royal Society of Victoria."

^v George Busk (1807-1886). English surgeon, zoologist, paleontologist and authority on the Bryozoa. Woods sent specimen of the Bryozoa (Polyzoa) to Busk. See for example "Notes on the Fossil Polyzoa

collected by the Rev. J.E. Woods near Mount Gambier, South Australia" by George Busk. *Proceedings of the Geological Society* (London) Nov. 30, 1859, pp. 260-1.

Later in his paper, "On Some Tertiary Australian Polyzoa" *J. Roy. Soc. N.S.W.* Vol. X, 1876, p. 149, Julian would name a species of Polyzoa, *Eschara buskii*, "after Professor G. Bush, F.R.S., etc., the greatest living authority on Polyzoa, and almost, we may say, the founder of its classification".

^{vi} "but first of all".

^{vii} "through hard and rough times".

^{viii} This paper was also published in the *Border Watch*, the newspaper of Mt. Gambier district, January, 1864.

^{ix} Sir Roderick Murchison (1792-1871) was an eminent geologist who worked with Adam Sedgwick and Charles Lyell — the big names in English Geology. A founder and long time President of the Royal Geographical Society he endowed the Murchison Medal and Geological fund (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, Vol. 15, p. 939).

^x *The Border Watch*, 8th April, 1864 reports on the dispute on a "matter of considerable public importance" pending between the Rev. Julian Tenison Woods and Messrs. Delessor and Mackie on the subject of country lying inland at the head of the Great Australian Bight. The latter who had explored and settled on the country said that Woods who claimed that country was unfit for settlement or stock was publishing "a mischievous delusion".

^{xi} This work as a book was not published. It is mentioned in an article on Woods and his writings in *The Australian Monthly Magazine*, Vol. IV May, 1867. "Mr. Woods is now engaged in a complete and popular resume of the physical geography, geology, mountain and river systems botany, natural history and climatology of Australia. Some of the most celebrated colonial geologists have promised their aid by affording information ... "However, by May, 1867 Fr. Woods was in Adelaide as Secretary to Bishop Sheil, Director of Catholic Education and involved with Mary Mackillop in establishing the Sisters of St. Joseph. His writings for some years were very few.

^{xii} Royal Society "Word of Wisdom" i.e. *Transactions of the Royal Society of Victoria*.

^{xiii} Fellow Royal Society of Victoria.

^{xiv} A paper by Rev. Julian E. Woods, Penola, "On Some Tertiary Fossils in South Australia" read on 27th May, 1861 was not published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Victoria* until 1865. Prompt publication of scientific works was always of prime importance to Woods "Scientific people want publication promptly otherwise they may find priority of mention or discovery given to others" (Woods to the Philosophical Society of Queensland. Minute book of the Society 25th November, 1878.)

^{xv} The Archer's fourth child, and the only one to survive, Grace Mary Archer was born 1st February, 1864. Grace married Philip Gavan Duffy, son of Charles Gavan Duffy.

^{xvi} *Not Quite as Old as the Hills* — A Lecture on the Evidence of Man's Antiquity, Dwight, Melbourne 1864 was delivered at Robe Town and dedicated to the Members of the Gawler Institute. The *Border Watch*, May, 1864 claimed the pamphlet had "attracted considerable attention in the colonial literary world".

^{xvii} 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).

^{xviii} The question was the antiquity of the human race. Though Charles Darwin had published in 1858 *The Origin of Species*, the pamphlet *Not Quite as Old as the Hills* does not mention Darwin but concentrates on the ideas of Charles Lyell's *Antiquity of Man*. Darwin's theory is discussed in Parts IV and V of a series of ten articles "Modern Science and Ancient Records". *The Southern Cross* (Adelaide) 19th October, 1867 to 20th December, 1868. Years later when Darwin's *The Descent of Man* (1871) had been given a wide hearing in scientific circles, Fr. Woods could say of him, "Differing as many of us do from the conclusions at which he has arrived, I cannot help adding my humble tribute of admiration for his philosophical method of inquiry in which he has set so beautiful, so illustrious an example. With such methods and in such hands the interest of truth are safe in the long run" and "I can well believe that there is much truth in evolution. If tomorrow the evidence of its occurrence were established on indubitable grounds it would be one more beautiful illustration of the plan of nature." "President's Address" *Proc. Lin. Soc. N.S.W.* Vol. IV, 1879, pp. 474-476. On this occasion, 28th January, 1880, the vote of thanks to Fr. Woods was moved by Hon. W. Macleay, M.L.C. and seconded by William Archer.