

Penola.  
14.9.65

W.H. Archer, Esq.,

My dear Sir,

I must at once repudiate the idea of yr being in any way bothered by my microscopic ideas. *Absit*<sup>i</sup>. But that you should even remotely dream of putting yourself to considerable expense on the same a/c is what I must protest against, and assure you that I could not under any circumstances have you even hint at, and that I feel just a touch of annoyance lest you should have misinterpreted my bantering about my poverty. At the same time let me assure you that I thank you for the thought and appreciate your kind and gentle consideration, but never mention things of that sort again or I shall have to suspect myself and weigh my words before admitting you into sacred precincts of my confidence. And now as to the microscope. I can sell Dwrights here to the Institute who have commissioned me to buy a cheap 2<sup>nd</sup> hand. Now comes the question wh of yrs is the best for me to have. Binoculars £12 or Beck<sup>ii</sup> £15. I think the former for I am hugely enamoured of Binoculars having never seen one, and both of my eyes being weather than the other! But then I see it has no moveable stage. Has Becks? If no then I wd take former. If yes, wd rather hear you. What objectives? Circular says of former either 2 in. of 10° & ¼ or 1 in. of 10° & ¼ 2 inch of 10 wd be most useful but cd I get both? Last of all what apparatus has Beck. Last but one of all could you give me credit until Xmas. Next answer I hope to be able to say send. Credit not so much an object as yr convenience so that if you and not Board wd have to give the credit then *mea virtute me involvo*<sup>iii</sup> and will get money somehow. If not a trouble to you wd you send MS as I can sell it to *Australasian*<sup>iv</sup> and please, but I am almost ashamed to ask – please send me a copy of your statistics for 1862 for that is the one I wanted most or rather more just now than 63 which you sent. I can't send you a beardie<sup>v</sup> for I sent Verdon<sup>vi</sup> the last and you might as well ask for a daily paper in Pekin as to expect to meet a photographer here. *Hemiaster archeri*<sup>vii</sup> - if you please – is being lithographed and looks well under the circumstances; you shall have yr copy ere the year be closed. Good and kindest Mrs Archer is not to be forgotten in any letter I write though I may not say so and the offsprings<sup>viii</sup> one of which I know. I think you said something about my coming to town. Ah yes a good joke but ironical. I will tell you when I know who is to be our Bp. When you see Selwyn<sup>ix</sup> next (he and I get on famously now) tell him without mentioning my name that you have heard through a friend in Queensland (which is true) that true Nummulites<sup>x</sup> have been found near Ipswich. Tell me the effect. You can tell him if he is very curious that he can get further particulars from me. I must close though I wanted to say lots about politics. Who does not hope that Verdon is not soiled in this mess<sup>xi</sup>.

Vytryyrs

J.E. Tenison Woods

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i "Far from it" .

ii The firm of Smith, Beck and Beck (1852) produced in England a "popular" microscope which was one of the first cheap binocular microscopes to be placed on the market. They also made the "Universal" monocular microscope which in its basic form retailed for £9. Extra accessories could be purchased for both microscopes (S. Bradbury, *Evolution of the Microscope*. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1967, pp. 217-223)

iii "I involve myself to the utmost."

iv Fr. Woods was publishing a series of articles on "Recent Explorations" in the Melbourne newspaper the *Australasian*. These appeared 13th Sept., 14th Oct., 16th Nov., 2nd Dec. & 23rd Dec., 1865.

v The Oxford Pocket Dictionary (1976) gives "beardie" as (among other meanings) a bearded man – so perhaps this refers to a photo of Fr. Woods.

vi Verdon (Note 4, 5/9/65).

vii (Note 3, 5/4/65).

viii William Alfred Nind Archer born 29th June, 1858 and Grace (Note 15, 28/11/63).

ix Alfred Richard Selwyn (1824-1902) an Englishman was, in 1852, appointed geological surveyor and later Director of the Geological Survey of Victoria. His maps and reports on the survey were of a very high standard. Selwyn, the Murchison Medalist in 1876, the Clarke Medalist in 1884, and member of many overseas scientific societies, left Australia in 1869 to become Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Apart from his own work he contributed to Australian Geology, through the men he trained during the Victoria Survey. (A.D.B. Vol. 6, pp. 102-103).

x Nummulites are large disc-shaped fossil protozoans (single-celled animals) and are most important guide fossils in the Tertiary epoch. (This is the period of time from the Cretaceous to the present, 65 million years.) Specimens were found about that time at Wallumbilla on the east side of the Fitzroy Downs, some distance to the north of Ipswich by W.P. Gordon. R.E. Etheridge & R.L. Jack refer their protozoan specimens to the Lower Cretaceous, "Rolling Downs Formation" (the Cretaceous Period has a duration of approximately 72 million years, from 136 to 64 million years), and note that to draw a line between the Ipswich and the Rolling Downs Bed is quite impracticable. Perhaps this indicates what Fr. Woods may have been thinking. (Professor D. Branagan, Sydney University private correspondence 6/8/1983.)

xi The "mess" was a Constitutional struggle between the Victorian Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. In order to secure the passage of a Tariff Bill which the Legislative Council planned to reject, the ministry of James McCulloch tacked the tariff proposals on to the Annual Appropriation Bill. When the Council rejected the Bill, the government borrowed money from the London Chartered Bank of Australia (McCulloch was its local chairman) which then recovered its money when the Governor, Sir Charles Darling signed a writ for the payment of the debt "out of the consolidated revenue of the colony." Verdon was government treasurer at this time. (C.M. Clark, *A History of Australia*, Vol. IV, Melbourne University Press 1980, pp. 246-248).