

42 Nutland Gate
Galtton June 27/82

Galtton

My dear Frank

Your father's kind letters & notes to me are hardly of a character suitable for your biography. They abound in sympathy & in a too favourable estimate of my scientific work on the one hand & of the value of any 'little matters' I might have done for him at his suggestion, on the other. I had rather not send them, but I need

not say how much I valued Ford, on the "Antecedents
receiving them as tokens of his of scientific men" is particularly
great sympathy and acknowledg- interesting & especially as regards
ment of us, ^{affection} ^{towards} the influence of school &
him. In fact I never ^{collected} in the formation of
was in his company without his character. Shrewsbury
feeling as in the presence may claim a share but
chamber of ^a sovereign. you will see that he, ^{not only} ^{referred}

There are however two with the men exception of
papers & their accompanying some learning of Euclid, any
letters which I enclose a useful intellectual influence
which I think you will received these but ^{he} ^{condemns}
value. They are the replies the education strongly. He
to questions that I circulated is not so emphatic as regard
in print to certain persons Cambridge, but ^{he} has often
in 1873 & 1875. He

told me that the influences
there received from Huxley
were secondary & that the
of love to solid scientific work
had dawned on me on board
the Beagle, when feeling
the responsibilities & the
of ~~the~~ ^{my new} ~~work~~ ^{work}.

The "Botanical" returns are
of less value but may be
acceptable. I may say
in respect to a suggestion
in the covering letter that
age may ^{perhaps} have had to do
with the fading of the faculty,
that I have found had not

to be the ² case ^{Galton} in any
marked degree. Often in
advanced years the power
is stated to be stronger than
it was in youth. But
it is ~~not~~ ^{most} ~~left~~ certain that
the tendency to think hard
and abstractly destroys the
power of concrete imagery
so that only a few scientific
men have ^{the highest} ~~to~~ any considerable
extent. Whatever it may
have been in youth, it has
become blunted by disuse
or rather by conscious

depression and has largely
disappeared by the time
of mid life

Very sincerely yours

Francis Gatten

P.S.
Kindly return the papers
when you have done with them
i.e. so abroad in 10 days.

Pray remember us very
kindly to your mother.