



ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LONDON,

SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W.

12/50

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Dear F.

I do not recollect your suggesting that the damping of a galvanometer needle by a copper plate is a very old case of using Foucault currents. But I have always told students (during the last 15 years at all events) that it was so - except that 15 years ago I always said "Arago fiction". I don't think that you are likely to have written it true because I think that everybody knew it. It is part of my contention in these meter cases that it was a matter of common knowledge. Aulton & Perry in their 1882 meter patent speak of the resistance to the relative motion of magnets & conductors as being proportional to speed & refer to Arago's disc experiments & our opponents say that it required invention to have a copper plate rotating between magnets poles to act as a brake - all because we did not draw a Foucault brake, we only described it generally. I am awfully busy & wish I had you to talk

to - you can stand being bored about other people's  
troubles. In fact I feel as if I never knew  
before what hard work means

Yours,

John Perry

12/50