

are down on me at once. If you
come to London & find you have
an hour to spare I hope you will
call on me. Apton & I are very
busy on many things. Our greatest
trouble just now is to get a good water
siren, something to produce a powerful
musical note under water, to be heard
through the sides of ships ten miles
off a rocky coast in rough weather.
This is one of ^{a dozen} ~~half-a-dozen~~ troubles
that torment us. With kind
regards I remain

Yours very truly
John Perry

14 Talgarth Road
West Kensington
6th March 1881

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My dear Fitzgerald

Thank you very much for your
papers on Maxwell's theory. But don't
you think that if Maxwell had seen the
difficulty due to the fact that his initial
condition is impossible according to Gauss,
he wd. have altered his theory - That is,
he wd. have said - we do not know that
even ^a ~~any~~ ^{potential} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~instantaneous~~ ^{is} ~~uninstantaneous~~
'creatable'. Assume that if a current
is suddenly 'created' the distribution of
potential due to it is produced not
instantaneously although perhaps with
a velocity incomparably greater than

the velocity of light. This assumption
w^d. very little change your equations
and it would get rid of all your
difficulties, I think, as to the production
of light, electro-magnetically.

It seems to me such a probable
occurrence. It agrees so well with all
one's speculations as to glow & brush
discharges from prime conductor of
electric machine and ones speculations
as to radiant heat generally that I
should be very sorry to agree with
your deduction from Maxwell's for-
mules. I wish I could see
you to have the benefit of your

advice not merely on this but on
a lot of other things that Ayrton &
I are interested in. I feel that it
w^d. be possible to get ideas from
you without your bothering about
our afterwards getting the credit of them
as I used to get ideas from Thomson
when he let me go about with him
and get the crumbs that dropped
from his table. In London, the
struggle for existence is so intense
that if I use a man's ideas and
call them my own, he & his friends

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