

99 Pembroke Road  
Dublin

15/105

Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> 1898

I am afraid ~~that~~ instead of striking  
the Board they are only heating the  
air! Some of their energy will no  
doubt be converted into heat, but  
it will be dissipated away & the  
course of time. Do you think Lady  
would take it up in Parliament?  
Or would he see as indifferent about  
Scientific education as the Inter-  
mediate fogger? I suppose Dr. ~~the~~ the  
Chief Baron seems to be the most  
likely man to decide. He was a  
very great friend of my father & uncle,  
hence I don't imagine he would  
mind if I were to talk to him about  
the present - discontents & ask him  
to support ~~the~~ Amicable proposal  
such as we intended making last  
summer.

Wishing you a happy New Year  
~~and~~ a very successful return of favour.  
Yours sincerely  
John Becker

My dear Dr. Fitzgerald

I would like to know what  
you think about my going up  
for a Matriculation Examina-  
tion in the University of Water-  
loo if you approve of it. I should  
feel very grateful if you  
would be kind enough to  
bring my testimonial from you  
up to date. I am writing to  
Dr. Schuster about this also.

The last time I saw him was before  
he left for the Continent - about  
three weeks ago. He mentioned the

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Bonning Research University - Bonn.  
I should like to know what  
you think about it - if you  
consider it - within my sphere.

My fluorescence work is gradually  
drifting into Solar Physics. I have  
a little equatorial here which I am  
going to try over & replaced, as I  
intend to do some astronomical  
spectroscopy next time. I am making  
up Schlesinger's book during the recess.  
I have written to Wiedemann about  
the fluorescence of Sodium vapour.  
I find that if a glass bulb ~~will~~ be heated  
in an air tube & that there is no con-  
densation on the walls of the tube the  
fluorescence, if any, must be ex-  
tremely feeble. The light-fluorescence

first obtained I afterwards traced to  
something on the walls of the tube.  
According to Wiedemann the fluo-  
rescence of the vapour is as bright as  
that of fluoresceine!

With reference to the Intermediate  
I was glad to hear that the RDS  
were going to take an active step  
in the matter. The only thing  
I fear is, that, as the attitude  
they are assuming is a hostile  
one, it will only <sup>bring</sup> ~~make~~ more to  
the Intermediate ~~people~~ people more to  
stimulate than ever. The last  
Statement - I am sure won't  
side with the RDS against the  
Commissioners upon whom the res-  
ponsibility of Intermediate Education  
is supposed to rest. Consequently