

"The Electrician,"

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TELEGRAMS:
"ELECTRICIAN NEWSPAPER,"
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8th May 1897

15/44

Dear Prof. Fitzgerald.

I have asked the printers to send you an early proof (unrevised) of the Friday Evening Discourse delivered by Prof. J. J. Thomson on the 30th ult. I hope to publish it in our next issue, if I can get the necessary illustrations in good time.

My reason for sending it to you is the hope that you may feel inspired, thereby, to write "The Electrician" either a leading article or a signed article of any length you deem fit up to say four columns.

You will observe that Prof. J. J. Thomson gets out of several little difficulties connected with the "radiant matter" hypothesis by the assumption

the atom, which is thought to be "one & indivisible" at least by the average perpetrator of text-books, is on the contrary infinitely divisible. This idea he works out very prettily and it helps one ^{over} ~~out~~ of the objection several obstacles to a true faith in regard to Zeeman.

I am aware that Prof. Thomson is not the first to propound this hypothesis, but I cannot help thinking that a lucid explanation of the experimental basis for this revolutionary "short cut way" with difficulties and the new difficulties (if any) into which the hypothesis may be expected to land us, would be very timely just now, what do you say?

If you feel like writing and want a little more time, I would hold over Prof. Thomson's lecture until our issue of May 21st.

Yours very truly
W. G. Bond.

P.S. Our usual rate of remuneration is 10p per column, but I should be pleased to leave the length of the article largely to you and to make the fee two guineas.

[Faint, illegible handwriting throughout the page]

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