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HILLFIELD,
MUSWELL HILL.

24th June 1897

Dear Professor Fitzgerald

When I had the talk with you over my concepts the other evening I think I understood you that it has been shown that similar particles in an enclosed space ~~when~~ if they repel one another according to the inverse square of their distance would find equilibrium by distributing themselves evenly in contact with the bounding surface supposed spherical. Also that a repulsion according to the inverse cube or a higher power would probably bring about uniformity of distribution throughout the space enclosed.

Can you without bothering yourself give me the references for one or both of these conclusions? A foot note to my paper might aid the reader and I shall be really obliged to you if you can help me to it.

I am yours ever
Wm Barlow.

Professor G. F. FitzGerald F.R.S.