

THE UNIVERSITY,
GLASGOW.

March 7. 1896.

23/87

Dear Fitzgerald,

I am very glad to hear what you tell me of the pension to Heaviside. I don't know why Perry should have had "compunction" about letting me know. I joined, as I suppose you know, heartily in the application.

I have been sadly kept off the two subjects of our recent correspondence by one thing following another within the last three weeks (please say so to Culverwell if you see him): but I hope to be able to return to both of them soon.

Meantime as to ^{the} Röntgen light, I am more and more disposed to think it is extreme ultra-violet light of transverse vibrations, and ~~F~~

~~Stokes~~ Stokes, with whom I have had a good deal of correspondence within these last three weeks, is I think also much inclined to the same view.

I was much interested in your last letter about electric action in the neighbourhood of a discharged air condenser. One thing at all events of my rude pencilling I see you have quite convinced yourself of:—"the subject is almost infinitely difficult." And I think you and I may almost agree to delete the "almost." As to what takes place in the axis in each of my two diagrams it is either longitudinal vibrations or what Stokes calls "push," which is equivalent to instantaneous transmission of pressure. A rigid globe suddenly set to vibrate to and fro in a

straight line in an incompressible elastic solid is a mechanical illustration but does not come within a million miles of being a dynamical representation or realisation of either electrostatic or electromagnetic action of any kind.

I am feeling perfectly well but still ordered absolute rest for the leg. I hope to be soon released partially, and before very long, wholly.

The Doctors promise that I shall be perfectly well provided I obey their orders.

Yours very truly,
23/87 Kelvin