

Nov 5. 32

CRIPPS'S CORNER,  
FOREST ROW,  
SUSSEX.

My dear Fisher.

I have naturally been thinking over the problem of the presidency for a long time. I had a talk with Blacker about it some months ago, and it is possible that I then influenced his mind somewhat. I saw him here for a couple of hours last Friday, when he came down to help me with an obituary notice which Nature asked me to write, as well as with regard to something in the Times on the same subject. I then heard that you had had a committee meeting.

I have taken up the line - with,  
I hope few exceptions - that I  
would not butt in in regard  
to the Society's affairs unless  
definitely asked to do so. I did  
occasionally discuss matters in  
Market Bay letters. And I want in  
this crisis to adhere to this  
line of conduct even more  
carefully. You must not think  
it subtle. Therefore, if I say that  
all I am prepared to do is to  
write a careful memorandum on  
the subject, to be read to the  
Committee, if you as its chairman,  
or any other responsible persons  
asks me to write anything.  
What I write would not please  
you, and would not please  
Blacker, in some respects anyhow.

And if it comes in answer to  
a definite request, it would not  
look as if I were suddenly facing  
my views on the Society, <sup>that</sup> a <sup>man</sup> would  
mind if they were ignored. It  
is not a particular task to leave out  
task to write opinions which one  
knows will not be altogether  
approved by one's friends. But  
if you, or any responsible person  
asks me, I will do my best:

A memorandum is more  
impartial than a letter.

I will talk science in  
a separate letter if I have  
anything to say.

Yours sincerely

Leland Dawson