

I came across the Transit article in the
Edin. Rev. at Cheltn. & soon saw how justly
you had characterized it as unreliable. I
had on the former occasion merely looked at
the earlier part of it & been greatly pleased
with its style - but when I came to find
that it ignored the transit of 1761! and spoke
of Fraunhofer as a living artist!! I began to
wonder how any man knowing so little about
it should have ventured upon the subject.

I think you said it was a Dr. Mann. Who
is he? at any rate not the man for such
an article.

My wife sends her love & I remain my
dear Aunt Arthur

your very affectionate old friend

J. W. Webb

Hardwick Vicarage, 13 Feb. 1874 (after post.)

My dearest Arthur,

(83)

On returning today from Cheltenham,
where we have been this week, I find your letter,
tho' not in time to post a reply, being obliged at
once to go & commit to the ground the body of my
good friend Mr. Trumper of Clifford (Walsley's father)
who died last Saturday after a fortnight's illness -
I am very sorry to hear that there is still some chance
of a commotion ^{in the R.A.S.} & we have had but too much of it al-
ready - and to me, who know so very little about it,
it has the demerit of being uninteresting as well
as annoying. However, I send you my proxy in
the earliest hope that it may do some good. I
am very sorry indeed to hear of Mr. Staggins's accident.
I wonder whether it happened in the Observatory,
where I well recollect your nearly having had a
tumble among all sorts of indescribables. I'd have
one of a broken leg by an upset from his great in-
strument - which he deserved was justly called a "re-
fractor!" - You sent me a post card some time ago
which I thought I had answered from Cheltenham - but
found my time strangely needed about to run away with.