

I am not in the least puzzled about the common principles of optics (course of incident & reflected light, index of refraction, critical angle, &c.) but I don't comprehend the formulae, & therefore of course break down in their application.

Now do forgive such a bother & I fear such an unseasonable one - and say, what is quite true, that you had no idea your old friend was such a donkey - but it is just as well to find a man out - My wife's kind love & I was thinking of writing to say how welcome you w^d be anywhere.

Your affectionate old friend

J. W. Webb

3 Rodney Terrace, Cheltenham,

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19 March .79.

~~Goodrich Terrace,~~
~~Long St. S. O.~~

My dearest Arthur,

We were so glad to hear from such a dear old friend - even on so sad a subject - and we join in the earnest hope that your heavy bereavement may be in some degree alleviated - and that we may have the great pleasure of seeing you somewhere before long. You know you can never be a stranger with us, anywhere. We are not, I hope, among the forgetters of old days.

Now just see how this leads me on to a piece of unmitigated selfishness. - I am lecturing here on Optics - and though I protested beforehand against undertaking matters of formulae &c. find myself (owing to hurry & some want of explicitness, perhaps - but I don't know that I am right there - on the part of those who corresponded with me about it) - find myself - to pick up after the parenthesis - in a fix. I have lost my way in a wood of Algebra - Has my dear old friend the time - as I know he has the will - to give me a little light? If so - I shall