

Stokes, Jonathan an Werner, Abraham Gottlob
Stourbridge, 26.02.1784

[1] Stourbridge in Worcestershire
Feb. 26. 1784.

Dear Sir

The pleasures which I experienced during my stay at Freyberg were in some measure renewed by the pleasing Letter w^{ch}. I had the satisfaction of receiving through the hands of my Friend Doctor Lister, & I have only to regret that the suddenness of his departure prevented me from receiving a longer epistle.

I have enclosed a copy of a Translation of Bergman's sciagraphia by an intimate friend of mine Dr. Withering of Birmingham who you will find has made some additions of his own. The most interesting is his discovery of Terra ponderosa aërata of which I have inclosed you a fresh (?) specimen. I wish it could have been larger to enable you to ascertain its external characteristics with greater precision, but the original specimen which ~~my~~ [2] fell into the possession of my friend was not large, & it was with ~~for~~ not without some pressing that I obtained for you what I have sent you. _ The promised paper on its Analysis is drawn upon & I believe already sent to the Royal Society so that we may hope to have it in the volume of the Phil. Trans. for the present year.

When you send me your Mineralogical Nomenclature you must accompany the terms with short definitions in Lat. or Fr. or otherwise I may fall into considerable errors. I could wish you to adopt as many of Linnaeus's botanical terms as may pretty exactly accord with your ideas, as by this means your language would not appear strange or novel, & facilitate the study & application of them.

I am happy to find that my fellow student at Edinburgh Doctor Home is become a pupil of yours. I flatter myself he will receive much pleasure [3] as well as improvement from his residence at Freyberg & that he will import new treasures for the use of his native country. Could you not persuade him to translate your two German Works? _ Please to give my com^{pls}. to him & tell him I shall be happy to see him at Stourbridge if he can make it in his way from Cornwall to Scotland – as I doubt not he will visit the West of England before he returns to his native country. _

Has anyone yet translated our countryman Whitehurst's Theory of the Earth. Mr. Voltmaer of Goslar, & Mr. Ludwig the Prof. of Natural Philosophy of Leipsic both expressed to me an intention of doing it. _ If they have I must tell you that His Theory with respect to the Toadstone is not well founded, as Veins pass through it from the upper to the lower beds of Limestone, & formations contain ore of sufficient value to be evoked. The analysis of the Toadstone of w^{ch}. I have inclosed you some specimens has been given by Dr. Withering in the last vol. of the Phil. Trans. _ In the same paper is an analysis of the Roawly Ragg w^{ch}. I have since discovered in a prismatic form. It is no other than a variety of Basaltes or Trapp. _ The same stone at the Cleehills in Shropshire forms a bed [4] varying from 1 to 70 feet in thickness with only one parting, & containing no organised bodies, lying over measures of Coal & Clay w^{ch}. lay & contain nodules of Bolar Iron stone. Cronst. §. 87. 2. 11. 6. _ I w^d. be glad to be informed how the Basaltes of Bohemia is connected with the adjoining masses or strata. _ There is Basaltes on the summits of several of the hills near Giessen, the base of w^{ch}. is Wakka. how I wish to have it ascertained wether the Basalt at Giessen is incumbent on the Wakka as it is on the Coal in the Clee hills or the Wakka incumbent on the Basalt. – We have lately discovered in the neighbourhood of Coallpookedale petrified Cockles evidently marine ones, & a Crustaceous Insect apparently marine also, in nodules of the Bolar Iron stone abovementioned in strata similar to those in w^{ch}. the Impressions of vegetables are found, confirming M de Luc's proposition that at the time these beds were deposited the Earth produced Vegetables. Did you ever see a Limestone that contained Pebbles that had the appearance of being formed by rolling in water? This observation if it holds true will lead to some curious speculations.

Do you remember a M. Eversmann a saxian that studied under you at Freyberg about 4 or 5 years ago? was he an Officer in the Hussars or attached to the Mines?

M^r. Magellan assisted by our most ingenious Chemist M^r. Kirwan is preparing anew edition of Cronsted with considerable additions, w^{ch}. I hope will of course contain those which you have already made to the part which you have already given. _

I shall be happy to have the pleasure of a Letter from you soon. In the mean time give me leave to assure that with sentiments of the truest esteem I remain

Your sincere friend & humble serv^t.

Jonathan Stokes.

For
Professor Werner
at the Academy
Freyberg

Bemerkungen