

Mr. Blyden

2 Jan 1787

Mr. Dinnick

St. James's Church Street

11. 2. Clarendon Street

Dublin



Dear Sir

I sit down to write to you, not to
you any material information respecting the
you ask, but to acknowledge the receipt of your
letter, & to testify my inclination at least of
plying with your requests. As to new instruments
I cannot inform you of any. I do not hear of
new experiments of great moment. There was one
in Electricity which I saw Mr. Haime exhibit
few evenings ago, which I would be glad to be
plained. I shall relate it to you & shall be glad
hear your opinion of it. Take an excited glass
tube, apply it to a conductor, it becomes pos-
sibly electrified, & the parts separate. While the
electric is still applied, lay your hand on any
of the conductor, the balls come together, remove
your hand, & then the electric, the balls ^{part} separate.

etc, & are found negatively electrified. Mr. Davine
could not explain the last fact. Why are the
balls electrified minus? I will not tell you ^{my} ~~sup-~~
position, until I hear yours.

I have puzzled Robinson & all the Electricians
here with regard to the prevailing system of Electrici-
ty, by demanding an explanation of a notorious
fact, that pitch, bells or any other substances nega-
tively electrical repel, in vacuo as well as in the
air. A negative point also blows powder
from it. Cavallo, whose book I suppose you
have seen, labours in vain to account for the
force of these phenomena.

Lord Mahon has lately published on the subject
of Electricity & has endeavoured to ascertain the
laws of its attraction & repulsion. I have been
told it is a good book.

Cylinders I believe to be best, & most in esteem at
present.

I have not heard any thing of Huggens' amalgam
but shall enquire about it.

Crawford is still going on in his investigation
& I hope will be able to publish next summer

All this new facts confirm this former
I am much obliged to you for the
manner in which you express yourself
regard to my trifling performance.

Dr. Black has been pleased also
to express his opinion of it very
favorably. If I had not been ^{so} much engaged
this vast scene of information I am sure

I should certainly have written ~~of~~ on the subject
of Hine, to which I have been strongly exhorted by
many of my friends. I could have enlarged with
many new facts & speculations, but I must leave
it until I have leisure, which I may perhaps
never have. I am
your most obed^t servant

2 Jan'y 1781

William Cleghorn