

Royal Observatory, Greenwich,  
London, S.E.

1872 January 31

My dear Sir

I write at present with little  
object except to explain to you why I  
have not written before.

I requested Mr. Huggins to make  
trial of your new method of using the  
spectroscope (~~exactly~~ to which you refer in  
your letter of Nov. 18); — and he was  
not furnished with a spectroscope —  
and afterwards he broke a prism —  
but at length he tried the method, and  
he appears to be well satisfied. There  
was, however, great delay.

M. Reverende  
Professor Secchi



With respect to the selection of observers,  
and the allocation of observers to special  
stations, we have hitherto made little  
progress. I am sure that, when the  
time is near, we shall be very glad  
to have you in one of the parties. This  
must be done by the invitation of some  
of the scientific leaders, with the assent  
of the Government. I should be glad  
to learn your wish more distinctly,  
which station (Alexandria, Rodriguez,  
Hondulue, New Zealand, Kerguelen's Island)  
should you prefer? You are so near to  
Alexandria that we cannot assist very much  
in conveying you thither. For the other  
stations, you must come to England with  
your instruments; can you do that? Do  
you wish any step of any kind to be taken  
at the present time?

I am, my dear Sir, Yours very truly

G. Airy