Dear Sir Charles,

Many thanks for your letter. It was delightful to hear from you again. I am so sorry the rheumatism is troubling you. I suppose it is one of the most baffling of all diseases.

I am hoping to have a couple of my daughters to stay here at their half-term holiday. I have just heard of my sen's return from Egypt and perhaps shall be seeing him soon, as his periods of leave allow. How kind of you to think of my name for the Papal Academy.

In view of the very distinguished names you mention, I should not hesitate to accept this honour, and on the whole I think I am less prejudiced than most on questions involving friction between religious and scientific ideas, and this, if so, is a sort of qualification. Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,